

Time passed.
No prince
came to kiss
her curse away.
No godmother
granted her
heart's desire.

No witch offered bargains,
no riddle broke the spell,
no star humored her wish.

Suppose you were in her
hooves. Would you ever
grow tired of yearning for
the past? Would you start
to wonder what it was,
exactly, that you missed?
Would you even begin to
think that... perhaps... it
isn't wrong to want to be a
monster after all?

Some people are
only good because
they aren't brave
enough to be bad.

Sandra was a
very brave
young woman.

One day she flew into the sky with
her magnificent wings spread wide
and looked down at the town full
of regular people, just like she used
to be, and she realized that she had
lost her will to rejoin them.

In fact, she had grown to hate them.

Sandra was practical. Why should they
have everything she wanted and not
even care? Why should she suffer for
being hideous in their eyes? Maybe
they should suffer instead, she said!

So she made them suffer.

It came to her easily, as naturally as blinking, for in every part of her evil body there lived an evil impulse. She practiced a thousand subtle tortures on her victims, flitting to their bedsides each night like a traumatic memory, transforming Miscellaneous into a garden of dread.

And her friends suffered too. They begged her to return to her senses, but Sandra was no longer their princess to guard. Now she was a dragon to slay.

But they wouldn't kill her, of course. Yet they couldn't cure her either. They couldn't catch her, or con her, or corner her. What could they do?

Jack knew.

He opened the book once more and, with a sigh and a spell, he cast her out. Out of town, out of time, out of space... out of everywhere.

Sandra screamed as the world rejected her, squeezing her away like water from a rag. "I'll come back!" she said. "I'll come back and burn you!!"

And then she was gone. Where?

I don't know.

When might she return?
Today? Tomorrow?
Now, or never?

I don't know that either.
Oh, I wish I did.

Uncertainty has become
our routine. Each
morning carries a hint
of dread, a chance that
she'll knock on our door.
I can only imagine what
I'll see when it opens.

I've changed with the years, as
people often do. How has she
been changed, I wonder, by the
alien years of strange realms?
What else has she become
besides Sandra? Maybe that
was her final curse... leaving us
to wonder forever.

Now, you may ask, what's the
lesson in this awful story?
Every fairy tale must have a
moral. But then... maybe this
isn't a fairy tale after all.

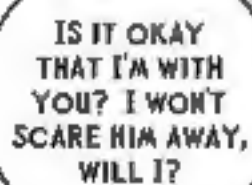
ULTIMAC

Maybe it's a
ghost story.

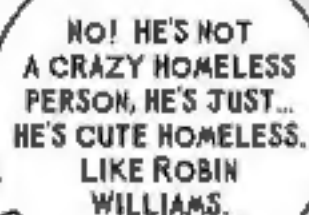
Because ghost stories don't have to
have real endings. They can just
drop off, incomplete, the mystery
fading to dawn. The listeners turn
away because the real end was too
terrible to hear, leaving the characters
to face their ghost in the dark, alone.

Is anyone there? Are you still
watching us? I hope we haven't been
left alone in the dark. I hope that our
story is still alive, heading towards
an honest final act. I even hope for
happily ever after. But most of all...

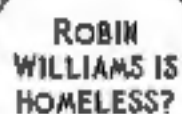
Most of all, oh, I hope we don't have much
longer to wait... Whatever end may come.
I'm desperately anxious to turn the page.



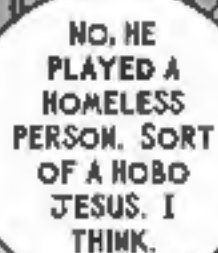
IS IT OKAY
THAT I'M WITH
YOU? I WON'T
SCARE HIM AWAY,
WILL I?



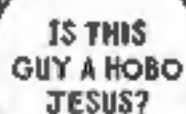
NO! HE'S NOT
A CRAZY HOMELESS
PERSON, HE'S JUST...
HE'S CUTE HOMELESS.
LIKE ROBIN
WILLIAMS.



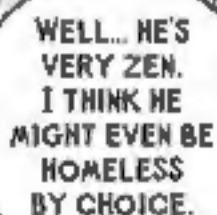
ROBIN
WILLIAMS IS
HOMELESS?



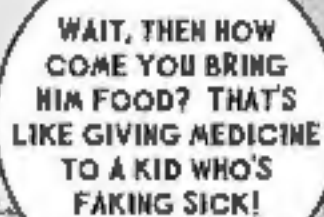
NO, HE
PLAYED A
HOMELESS
PERSON. SORT
OF A HOBO
JESUS. I
THINK.



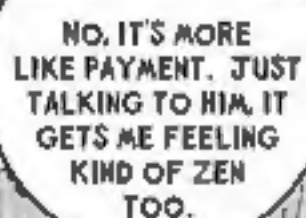
IS THIS
GUY A HOBO
JESUS?



WELL... HE'S
VERY ZEN.
I THINK HE
MIGHT EVEN BE
HOMELESS
BY CHOICE.



WAIT, THEN HOW
COME YOU BRING
HIM FOOD? THAT'S
LIKE GIVING MEDICINE
TO A KID WHO'S
FAKING SICK!



NO, IT'S MORE
LIKE PAYMENT. JUST
TALKING TO HIM, IT
GETS ME FEELING
KIND OF ZEN
TOO.



WHAT?
DOES
HE TALK
DIRTY?



Z.



JACK?



JACK?

MM.
HMM?



OH... OH, HI
VIBRISSA.
HOW'S IT
GOING?

HEY,
YOU'RE
YOUNGER THAN
I THOUGHT! I WAS
THINKING YOU'D BE
A GRIZZLY OLD
CAVEMAN. I WAS
READY TO SAVE
HER FROM
YOU.



HAH! AHA. EXCUSE
MY FRIEND. SHE
SUFFERS FROM
HONESTY.

DON'T
WE ALL. I'M
JACK.

SANDRA.



SANDRA?
YOUR NAME'S
SANDRA?

I KNEW
A SANDRA
ONCE. I
RUINED
HER LIFE.

I WONDER
IF YOU'RE
AN OMEN.



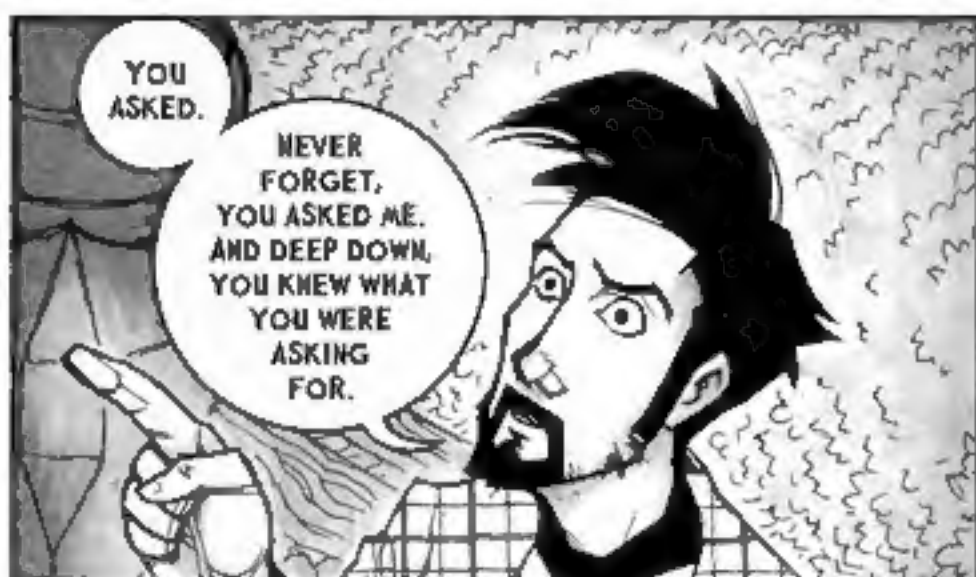
I LOVE THE
WAY YOU
TALK.

LISTEN, I
CAN'T STAY LONG
TODAY. I HAVE A
PRESENTATION
I NEED TO
PREPARE FOR...



BUT I WAS
WONDERING IF YOU
COULD GIVE ME
SOMETHING TO CARRY
INTO THE ROOM,
LIKE A MANTRA,
OR A STORY.

SOMETHING
TRANSFORMATIVE.



YOU
ASKED.

NEVER
FORGET,
YOU ASKED ME.
AND DEEP DOWN,
YOU KNEW WHAT
YOU WERE
ASKING
FOR.

WHEN YOU GET HOME TONIGHT
THERE'LL BE A BUTTERFLY
ON YOUR DOOR. IT'LL
FLY AWAY.

IF YOU
CHASE IT YOU'LL
BE LED TO A WHOLE
NEW WORLD. YOU'LL
LEARN STRANGE THINGS.
FROM THAT POINT ON
YOU'LL BE ON MY SIDE
OF THE FENCE... NO
TAKE-BACKS.

BUT IF
YOU IGNORE
THE BUTTERFLY
YOU'LL PROBABLY
WORK OUT A REALLY
GOOD PRESENTATION
BECAUSE YOU'LL BE
DISTRACTED ALL
EVENING AND YOU
WON'T OVER-
THINK IT.

I WILL SAY THAT MAGIC'S GETTING
THICK THESE DAYS, AND YOU MIGHT
BE GLAD TO HAVE A LEG UP BY
STARTING A NEW CAREER AS A
WITCH OR SOMETHING. BUT
MAGIC MAKES US AGENTS
OF FATE, AND BELIEVE
ME, IT CAN BE A REAL
CRAPPY LINE OF
WORK!

SO GIVE IT
SOME THOUGHT.
THEN ACT ON
INSTINCT.

HMM.

THANKS,
JACK. I
NEEDED THAT
TODAY.

YOU
DID?

WELL I GOTTA GO.
ENJOY YOUR LUNCH,
HONEY. SEE YOU
TOMORROW?

NO.

GOODBYE,
VIBRISSA.
'BYE SANDRA.
THANKS FOR
THE FOOD.

CIAOI

WAIT, IS ALL
THAT REALLY
GOING TO
HAPPEN??

WHAT? NO,
DON'T BE SILLY.
I JUST LOVE HEARING
THE THINGS HE
MAKES UP.

IS THE
BUTTERFLY IN
POSITION?

YES,
JACK.



COOL. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. HOPE I DIDN'T RUIN HER LIFE.

OH JACK. I HATE WHEN YOU SAY THAT.

HMMF. JUST HOPING.



IS IT TIME TO MOVE ON, THEN?

YEP, TIME TO VANISH. MAYBE WE'LL GO TO WASHINGTON NEXT. CATCH A POLITICIAN!

IT'S MY TURN TO CHOOSE.



FIRST, THOUGH, I WAS HAVING A VERY FUN DREAM THAT I'D LIKE TO GET BACK TO.

AM I IN IT?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE IN MY DREAMS, TOMIE.

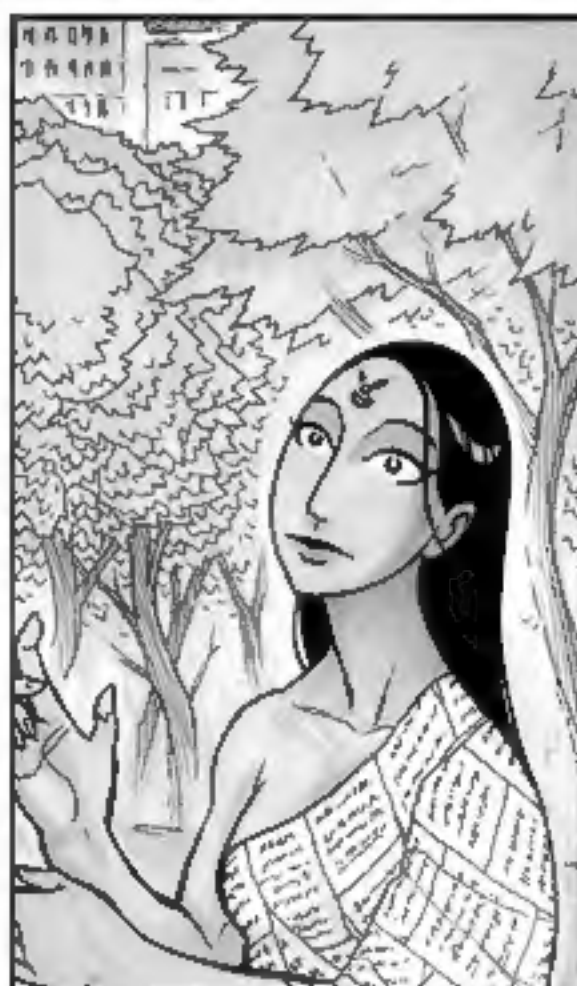
I'VE GOT YOU RIGHT HERE.




JACK

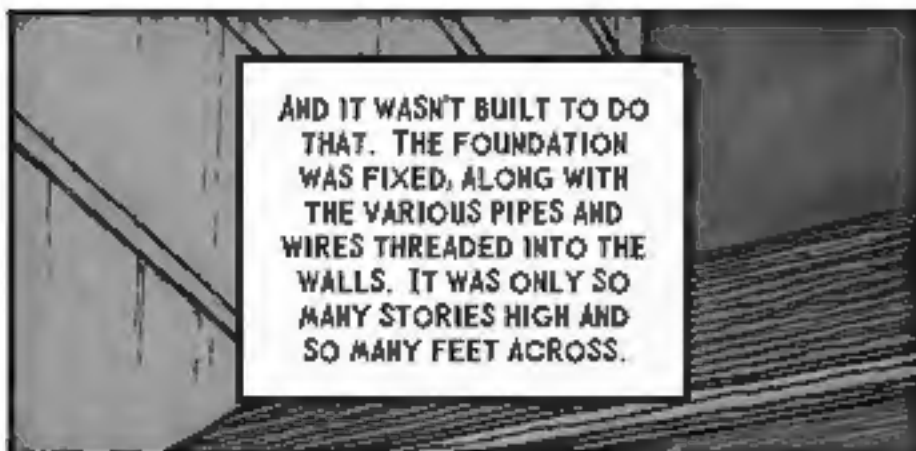


HEAR ME, JACK!






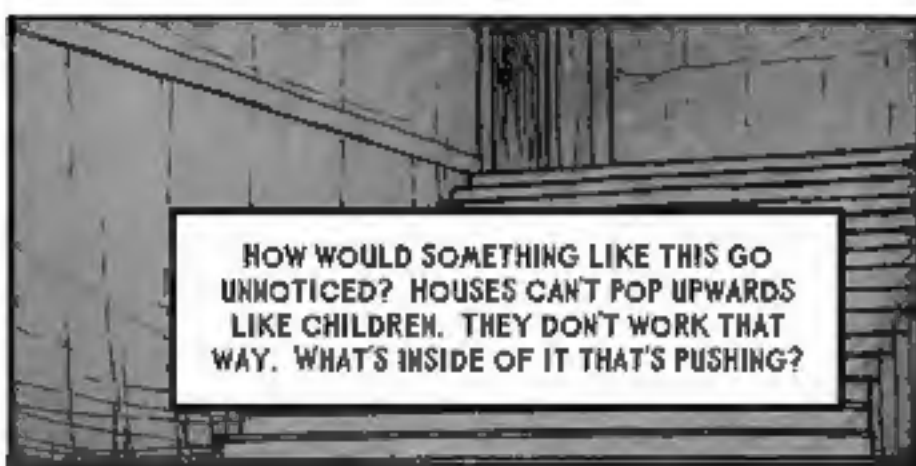
THE HOUSE
HAS GROWN.



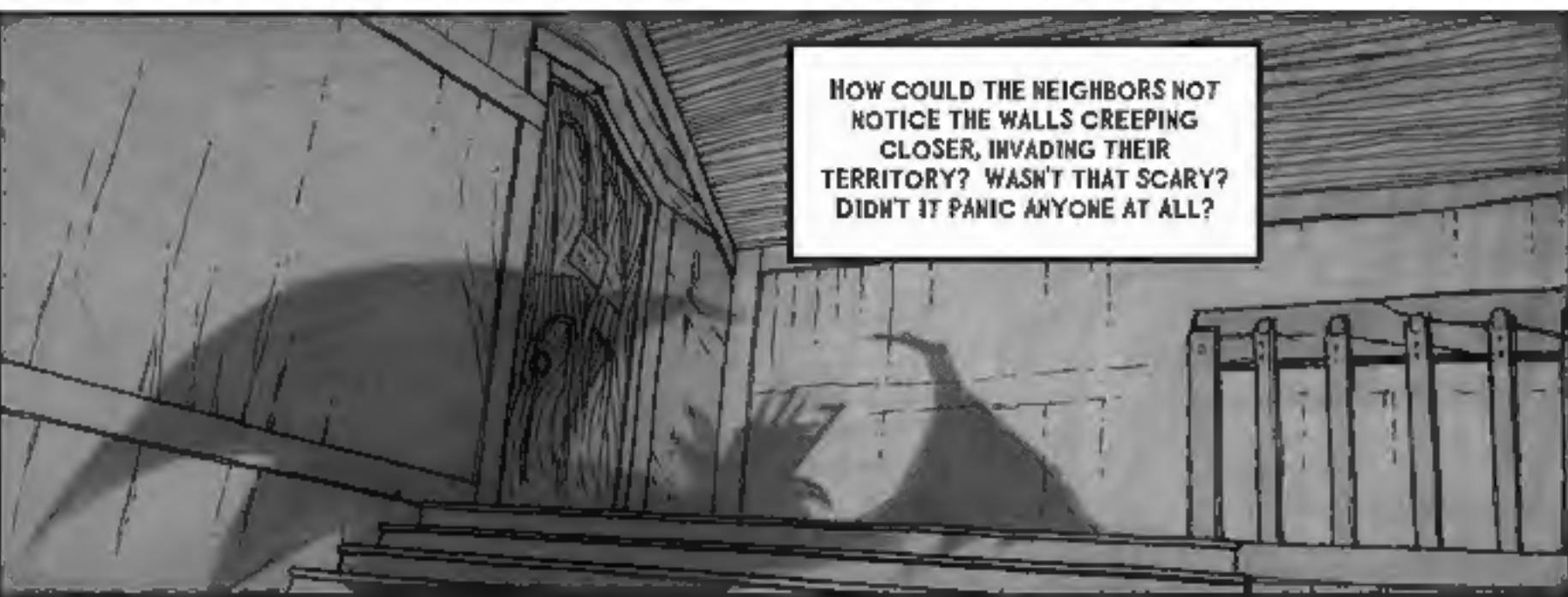
AND IT WASN'T BUILT TO DO
THAT. THE FOUNDATION
WAS FIXED, ALONG WITH
THE VARIOUS PIPES AND
WIRES THREADED INTO THE
WALLS. IT WAS ONLY SO
MANY STORIES HIGH AND
SO MANY FEET ACROSS.



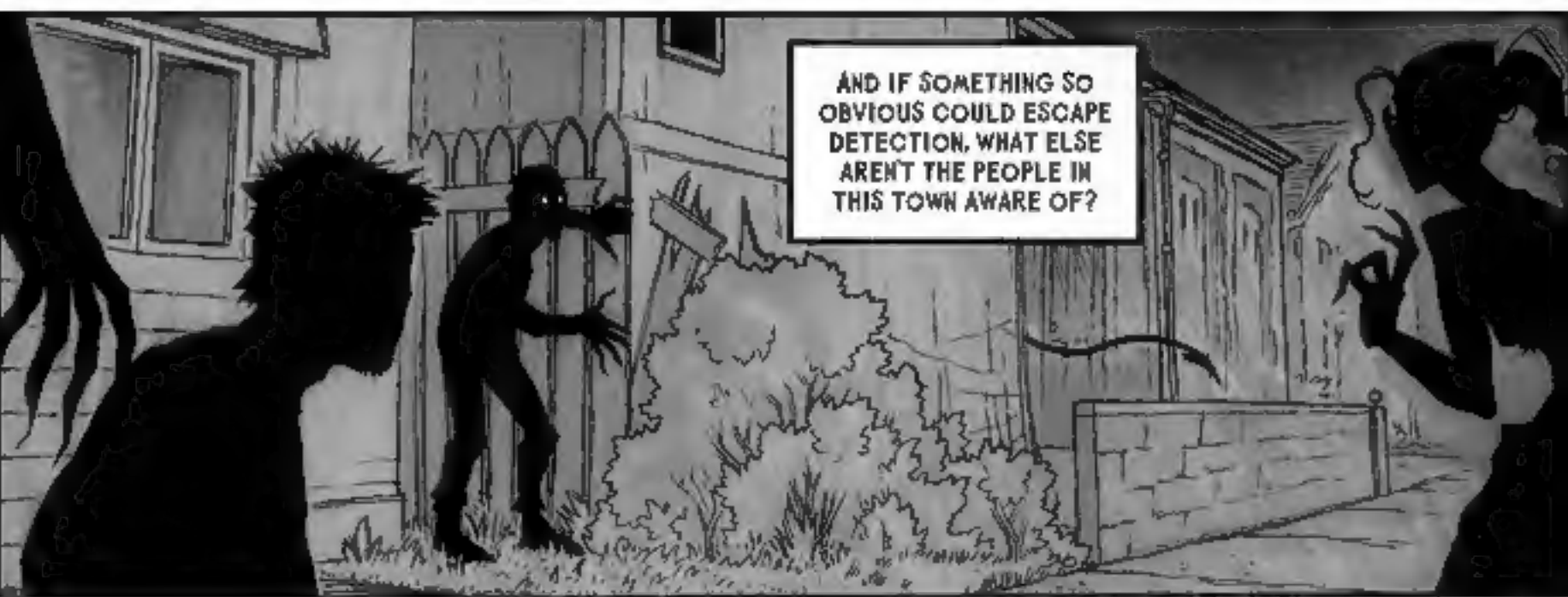
NOW IT'S MORE. THE FACADE HAS
WARPED IN PLACES WHERE THE
BOARDS HAD UNEASILY MULTIPLIED,
DEAD WOOD IMITATING BACTERIA,
CREAKING IN BIZARRE WAYS.



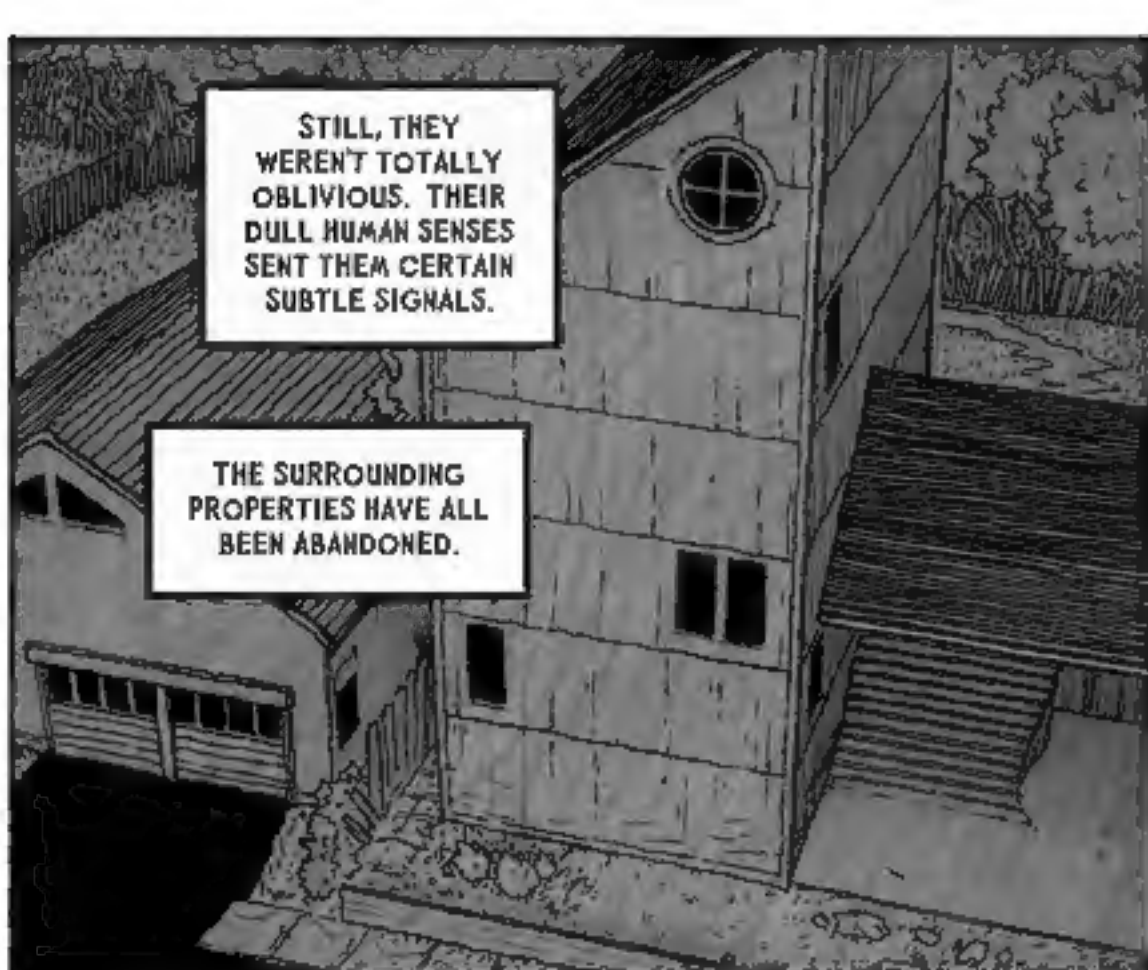
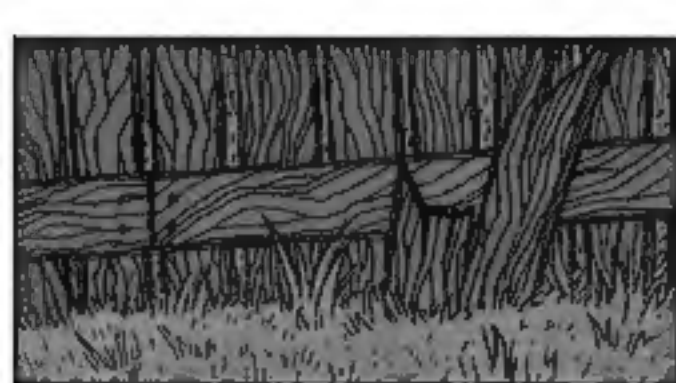
HOW WOULD SOMETHING LIKE THIS GO
UNNOTICED? HOUSES CAN'T POP UPWARDS
LIKE CHILDREN. THEY DON'T WORK THAT
WAY. WHAT'S INSIDE OF IT THAT'S PUSHING?



HOW COULD THE NEIGHBORS NOT
NOTICE THE WALLS CREEPING
CLOSER, INVADING THEIR
TERRITORY? WASN'T THAT SCARY?
DIDN'T IT PANIC ANYONE AT ALL?

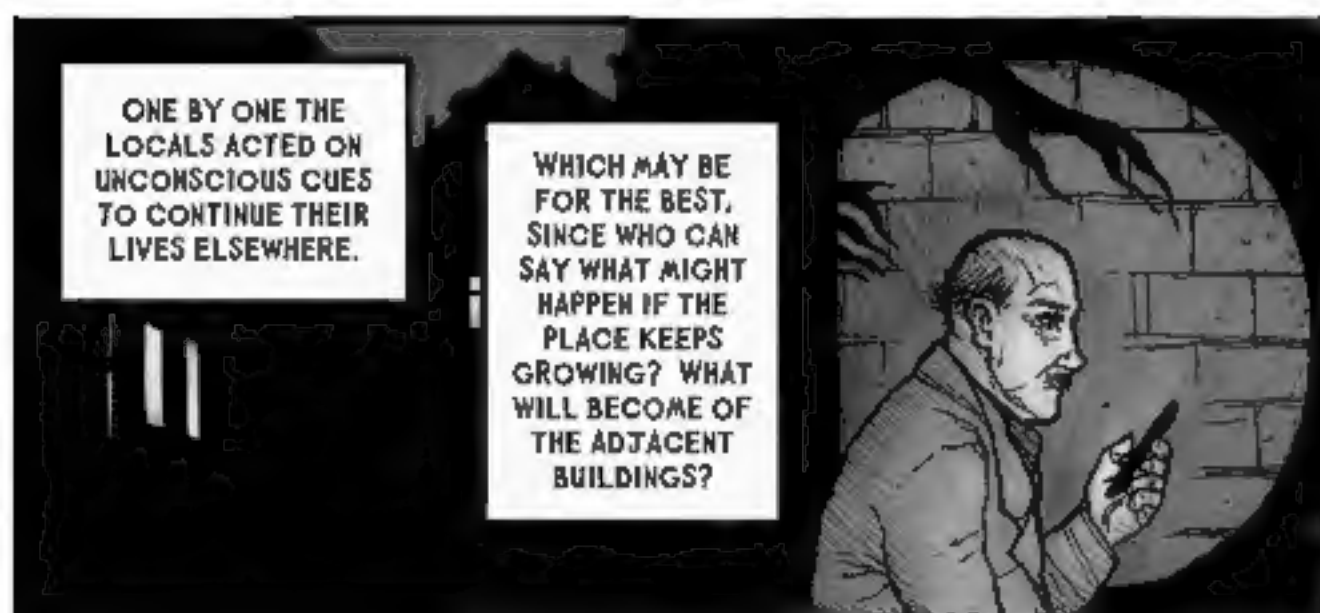


AND IF SOMETHING SO
OBVIOUS COULD ESCAPE
DETECTION, WHAT ELSE
AREN'T THE PEOPLE IN
THIS TOWN AWARE OF?



STILL, THEY
WEREN'T TOTALLY
OBLIVIOUS. THEIR
DULL HUMAN SENSES
SENT THEM CERTAIN
SUBTLE SIGNALS.

THE SURROUNDING
PROPERTIES HAVE ALL
BEEN ABANDONED.



ONE BY ONE THE
LOCALS ACTED ON
UNCONSCIOUS CUES
TO CONTINUE THEIR
LIVES ELSEWHERE.

WHICH MAY BE
FOR THE BEST,
SINCE WHO CAN
SAY WHAT MIGHT
HAPPEN IF THE
PLACE KEEPS
GROWING? WHAT
WILL BECOME OF
THE ADJACENT
BUILDINGS?



WILL THEY BE
CRUSHED?
OVERWHELMED?
ABSORBED? HOW
AGGRESSIVE
IS ITS EXPANSION?



PERHAPS THE HOUSE IS
GROWING TO
ACCOMMODATE
SOMEONE. SOME
STRANGE, SUPERNATURAL
SUBURBANITE... IF SO,
WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN
THE TENANT ARRIVES?



OBVIOUSLY,
SHE'LL MAKE
HERSELF AT
HOME.

WAIT.. JACK, IF SHE SENT THE MESSAGE A LONG TIME AGO, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SHE'S HERE NOW?

I FEEL IT IN MY WIZARD GUT AND TOMIE.. TOMIE SAID SHE FELT LIKE SOMETHING RECENTLY PASSED THROUGH HER

"PASSED THROUGH HER."

SHE'S A GATEWAY TO OTHER REALMS! THINGS PASS THROUGH HER!

SANDRA MUST HAVE FOUND TOMIE'S "OTHER SIDE" ON... ON THE OTHER SIDE

YOU HAD A DREAM WHERE SANDRA SCREAMED SHE WAS COMING AT YOU AND TOMIE FELT SOMETHING PASS THROUGH HER "OTHER SIDE"

STOP MAKING IT SOUND SEXY! YOU'LL DISTRACT ME!

WELL YOU INSPIRE THAT KIND OF HUMOR BUT IF TOMIE NOTICED THIS, WHY DIDN'T SHE TELL US EARLIER?

SHE MISTOOK IT FOR GAS OR SOMETHING, SHE'S STILL CONFUSED BY PHYSICAL SENSATIONS. ANYWAY, SANDRA WOULDN'T JUST POP OUT OF HER MOUTH!

BUT I'LL BET I KNOW WHERE SHE IS IT'S TIME TO GET THE GANG BACK TOGETHER, SAM. WE'RE GOING HOME!

LOOK, JACK, I HATE TO DOUBT A HUNCH, BUT THIS SOUNDS LIKE IT MIGHT BE A RED HERRING. I'D LIKE AT LEAST ONE MORE WAFER-THIN SHRED OF EVIDENCE BEFORE I DROP EVERYTHING TO FIGHT EVIL AGAIN.

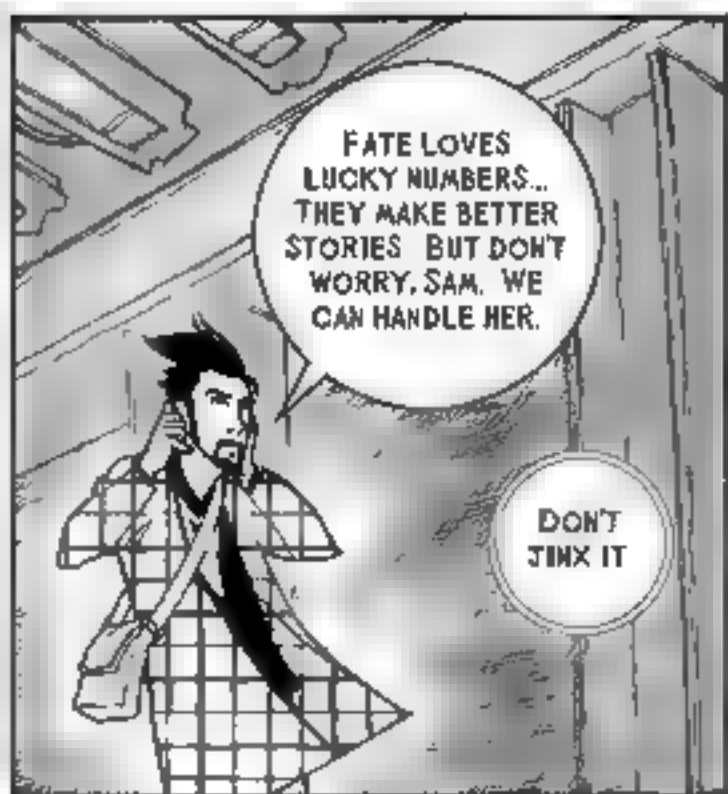


OH YEAH,
I COUNTED
THE DATES.

TOMIE'S
FEELING CAME
EXACTLY 1,666
DAYS AFTER
SANDRA WAS
BANISHED

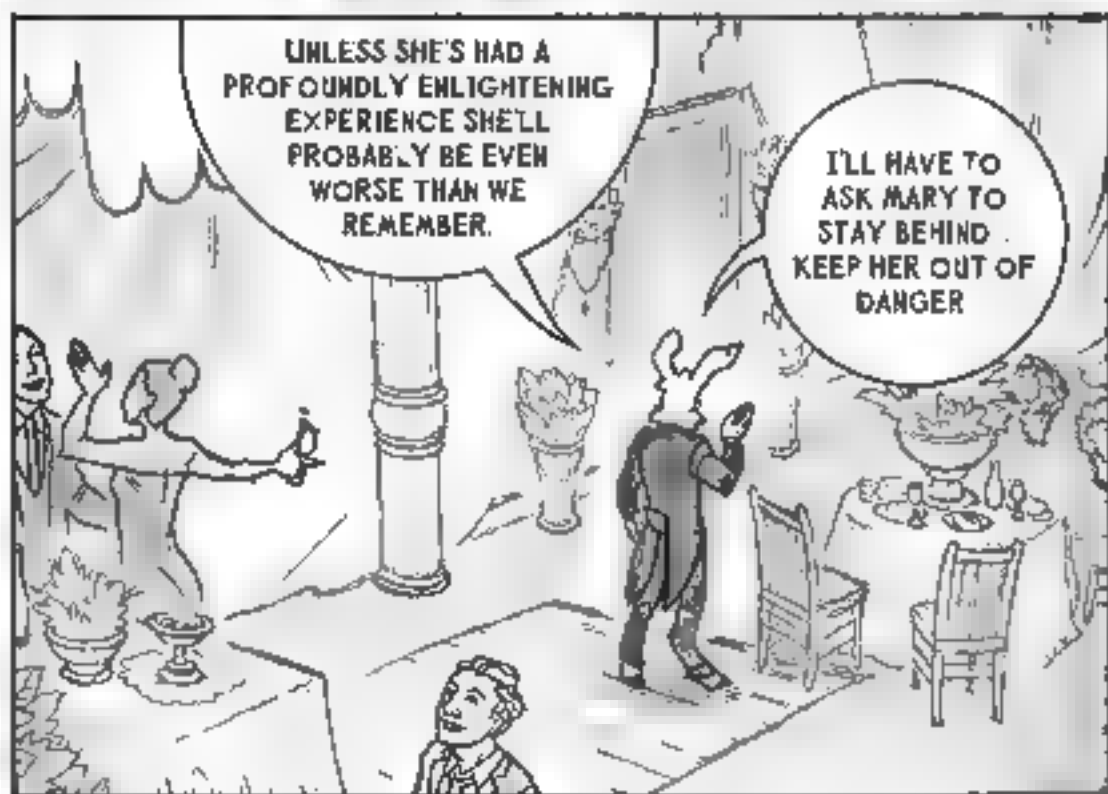
DAMN IT

THAT'S
JUST OMINOUS
ENOUGH.



FATE LOVES
LUCKY NUMBERS...
THEY MAKE BETTER
STORIES BUT DON'T
WORRY, SAM. WE
CAN HANDLE HER.

DON'T
JINX IT



UNLESS SHE'S HAD A
PROFOUNDLY ENLIGHTENING
EXPERIENCE SHE'LL
PROBABLY BE EVEN
WORSE THAN WE
REMEMBER.

I'LL HAVE TO
ASK MARY TO
STAY BEHIND.
KEEP HER OUT OF
DANGER



I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
HOW DO YOU THINK
SANDRA WILL REACT
TO TOMIE?

BADLY



YOU KNOW SANDRA... SHE WAS
IMPATIENT BEFORE SHE WENT
NUTS. NOW SHE'S COMING
IN ON OUR SHOW AFTER
MISSING FOUR AND A
HALF YEARS OF
EPISODES

NOBODY
LIKES HAVING
TO PLAY
CATCH-UP



ACTUALLY, HER
CONFUSION MIGHT BE
AN ADVANTAGE, MAYBE
WE SHOULD MAKE
HER EVEN MORE
CONFUSED,

SOMETHING
TO CONSIDER
BY THE WAY,
HOW'S MARY
DOING?



SHE'S GOOD.
WE'RE AT HER
BROTHER'S WEDDING,
SHE'S STEALING
THE SHOW.
HANG ON.

MARY!
JACK SAYS
HELLO!



OH, SAM! THERE'S
A WHOLE BUNCH
OF BUNNIES ON THE
LAWN DOING THE
ZOMBIE THING!



FOR THE LOVE
OF... NOT
AGAIN.

LOOK
I GOTTA GO.
I'LL CALL YOU
BACK AFTER I
WRAP THINGS
UP HERE



MY
FINGERS
ARE SET TO
VIBRATE

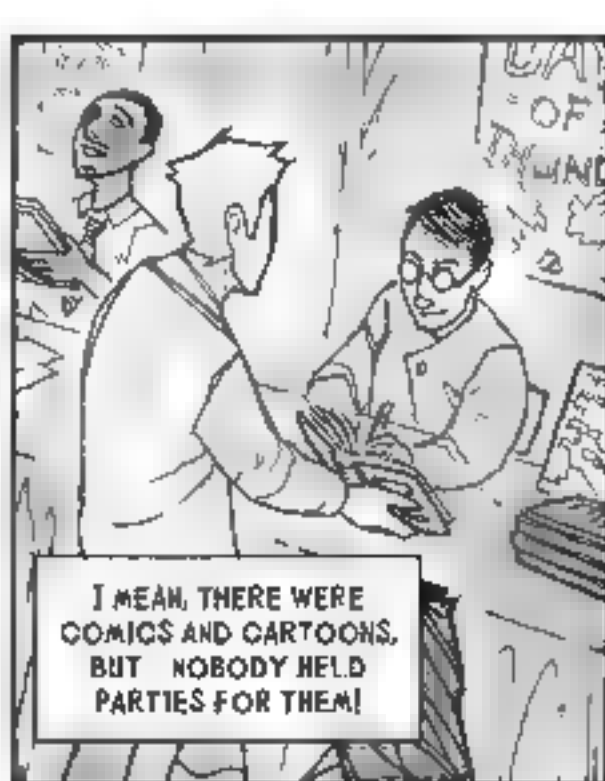


I'LL CALL
CRYSTAL.





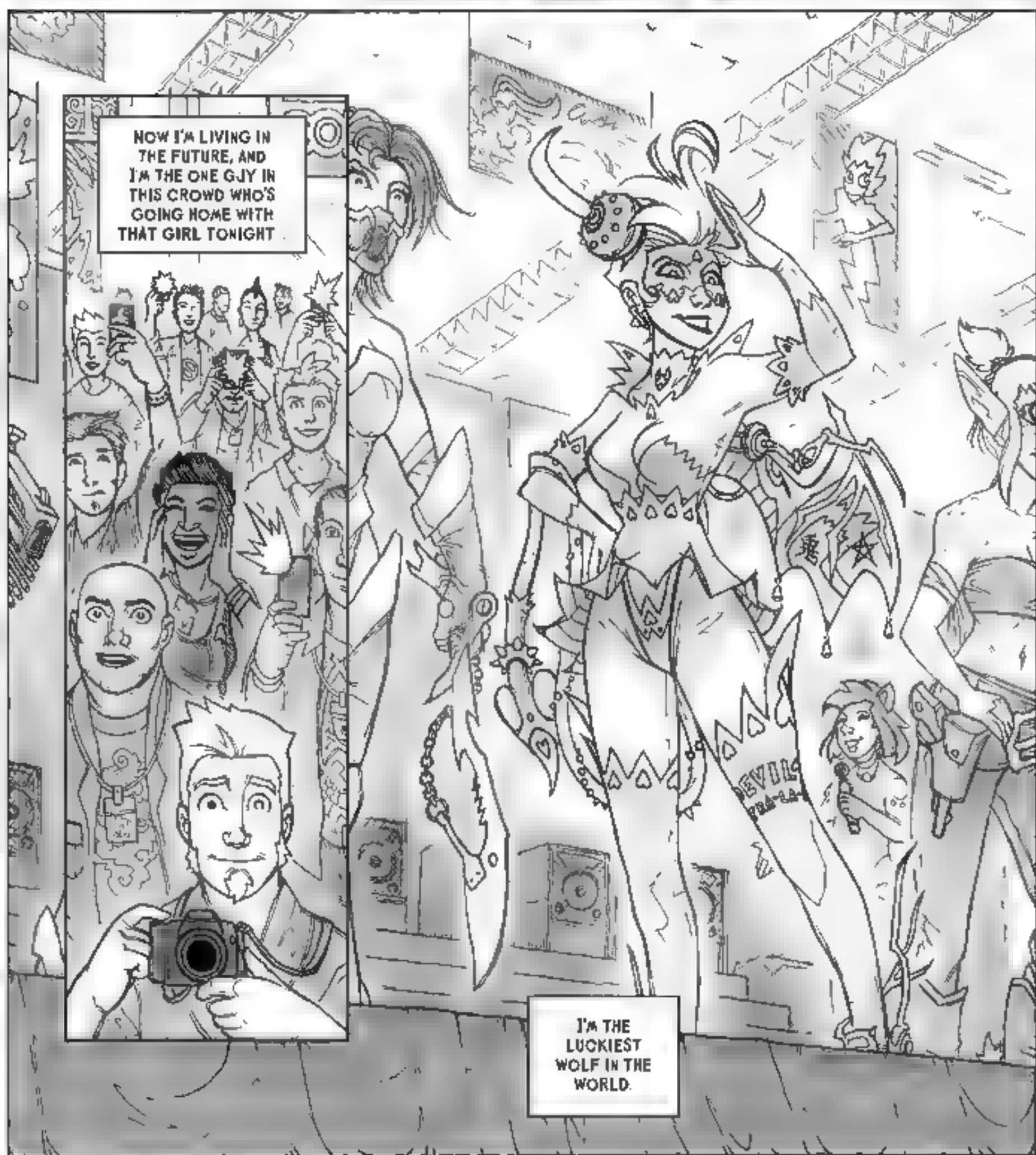
THEY DIDN'T HAVE
STUFF LIKE THIS
WHEN I WAS LITTLE



I MEAN, THERE WERE
COMICS AND CARTOONS,
BUT NOBODY HELD
PARTIES FOR THEM!



WHEN I WAS A KID YOU
WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO
CARE ABOUT FUN STUFF
WHEN YOU GREW UP
HOW IT'S HIGH ART



NOW I'M LIVING IN
THE FUTURE, AND
I'M THE ONE GUY IN
THIS CROWD WHO'S
GOING HOME WITH
THAT GIRL TONIGHT

I'M THE
LUCKIEST
WOLF IN THE
WORLD.



MUM-DIT-DIT-DIT DEE... HOO-A HOO-A...



HELLO?

OH, HI
SAM! HOW'S IT
GO'NG?



YKNOW, I'M TH NKING THAT
FOR OUR NEXT SHOOT
I'LL TRY MIGHTY MERRY
CYBORG CHERRY, OR
MARY A KO.
FAIRY NEKO!

OR MAYBE
I'LL CROSSPLAY
A LITTLE, THAT'S
POPULAR. I'VE GOT
SOME IDEAS FOR A G RL
VERSION OF CTHULHU
K LL MASTER SHINOBU
THE HOODOO THRILL
SHATTERING
GUMSHOE!

HAVE YOU
READ THE MANGA?
IT'S AN INTERESTING
TAKE ON..
LOVECRAFT.



WALLY?
WHAT'S
WRONG?



I GOT A
CALL FROM
SAM. HE GOT A
CALL FROM
JACK

SANDRA'S
BACK





DID YOU
KNOW WE HAVE
A MOTHMAN IN
THIS TOWN?

A "MOTHMAN!"
OH, THAT SOUNDS
GROOOOOVY
WHAT IS IT?

WELL, SEE, IN
VIRGINIA THERE
WERE SIGHTINGS OF
THIS MONSTER. UM,
THEY CALLED IT A
MOTHMAN THIS WAS
IN THE SIXTIES.

REALLY??
SO WAS I!

HAH! WELL, A
FEW YEARS AGO
WE STARTED SEEING..
NOT THE MOTHMAN, HE'S
IN VIRGINIA, BUT WE GOT
SOMETHING WE HAVEN'T
SEEN HER IN A FEW YEARS,
BUT SHE'S... ACTUALLY,
SHE'S MORE LIKE THE
JERSEY DEVIL.

OH I KNOW WHO
YOU MEAN! THE
ZEBRA MONSTER,
RIGHT? I SAW
HER TOO!

YKNOW
YOU'RE A
SPECIAL
GIRL

NO, NO, SERIOUSLY.. IT'S LIKE..
THIS ISN'T OUR FIRST DATE, RIGHT?
BUT IT'S LIKE YOU GET ME HIGH
OR SOMETHING I CAN'T EVEN
REMEMBER YOUR NAME

WHY
IS.. HEH.
WHY CAN'T I
REMEMBER
YOU?

GIGGLE.
WHYYYYYY?





WHAT DID I SAY?

AAG. WOAH. HEY, I'M SORR--

WHAT DID I SAY??

UH.



NO MORE VAMPIRES, I SAID. I WANT NO MORE VAMPIRES MADE IN THIS TOWN. AND WHAT WERE YOU DOING JUST THEN?

P-PEACE, MAN! I-

NO WHAT WERE YOU ABOUT TO DO TO THAT GUY?

MM.. COUGH

MAKE HIM A VAMPIRE?



LISTEN..
BLOOFER
LADY

AHUH..
CUH·CALL
ME BLOO, IT'S
COOL..

I'VE GOT A
LOT ON MY MIND..
IT'S HARD TO MANAGE
A TOWN FULL OF
VAMPIRES. IT'S
STRESSFUL.



I GOT SOME
SSSTUFF .. HELP
YA CHILL
OUT ...

I'M
OVERWHELMED!
I DIDN'T THINK I'D
COME HOME TO THIS
I THOUGHT THIS TOWN
WOULD CALM DOWN
WHILE I WAS GONE!
I WAS GOING TO
RELAX!



STILL

THAT'S NOT
TO SAY I'M
DISTRAUGHT



I'M USED TO BEING
OVERWHELMED... I
THINK IT'S MY ELEMENT
MULTITASKING COMES
NATURALLY TO A
"MOTHER HEN"
LIKE ME

WHAT WOULD
I DO WITH SPARE
TIME, ANYWAY? THIS
WHOLE SITUATION
MIGHT JUST BE A
BLESSING.



MY POINT,
"BLOO," IS THAT
STRESS DOESN'T
MAKE ME
FALLIBLE

IT
MAKES ME
MEAN.



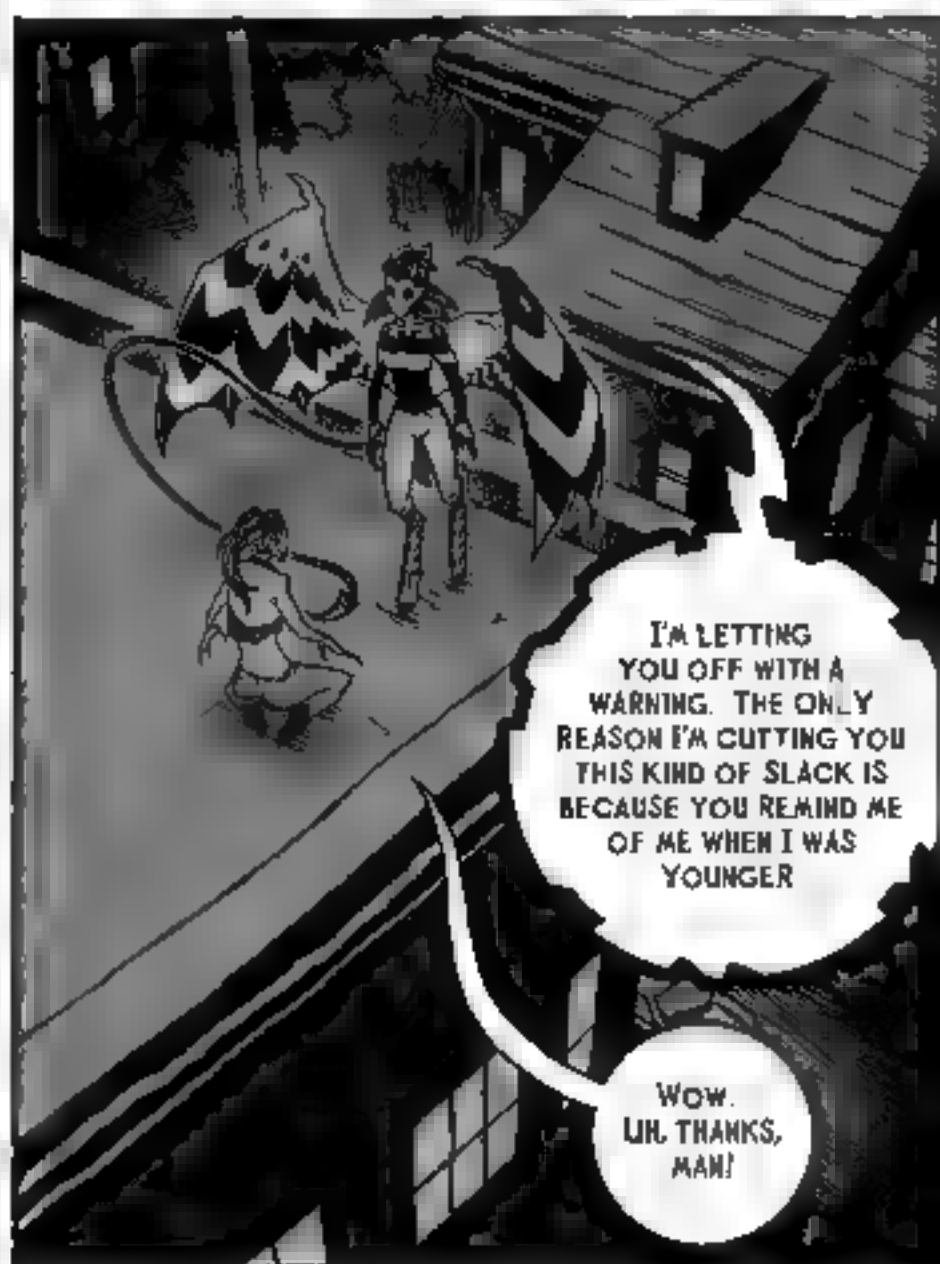
IF YOU THINK
FOR AN INSTANT
THAT YOU CAN SLIP
UNDER MY RADAR AND
BREAK MY RULES THEN
LADY, I WILL CHANGE
YOUR MIND FASTER
THAN YOU CAN
FLINCH.

I DON'T
CARE HOW
HIGH YOU ARE,
I'LL HURT YOU SO
HARD THAT YOU'LL
NEVER GRIN
AGAIN.



IS THAT
VERY
CLEAR?

YEAH.



I'M LETTING
YOU OFF WITH A
WARNING. THE ONLY
REASON I'M CUTTING YOU
THIS KIND OF SLACK IS
BECAUSE YOU REMIND ME
OF ME WHEN I WAS
YOUNGER

WOW.
UH, THANKS,
MAN!

IT'S NOT
A COMPLIMENT
I WAS AWFUL

I JUST DONT
WANT TO BE A
HYPOCRITE.

NOW.
DO YOU
WANT TO
CALL IT A
NIGHT?

CALL IT
A NIGHT..
CALL IT
A..

Y'KNOW, I USED TO THINK THAT MAYBE I
WAS STILL IN THAT TENT IN WOODSTOCK,
TRIPPING WHOLE YEARS IN A VAMPIRE
DREAM. I WOULD SEE THINGS LIKE YOU
IN MY WILDEST VISIONS, BUT THEN
YOUR STRIPES WERE ALL RAINBOWS...
SEEING YOU NOW. IT'S LIKE WATER
IN MY FACE, AND I KNOW
I'M REALLY ..

YEAH.
HOOK ME
UP

NNF

ssssssssss





IT'S STRANGE
BEING NEEDED LIKE
THIS. I HADN'T
REALIZED HOW
CHILDISH I'D
BECOME

FOR
THE FIRST
TIME IN AGES
THERE'S NO ONE
TO TAKE CARE
OF ME.



AND
SOMEHOW
THAT MAKES
ME FEEL STRONG.
LIKE I'VE COME
AWAKE AGAIN,
BECAUSE YOU
NEED ME.



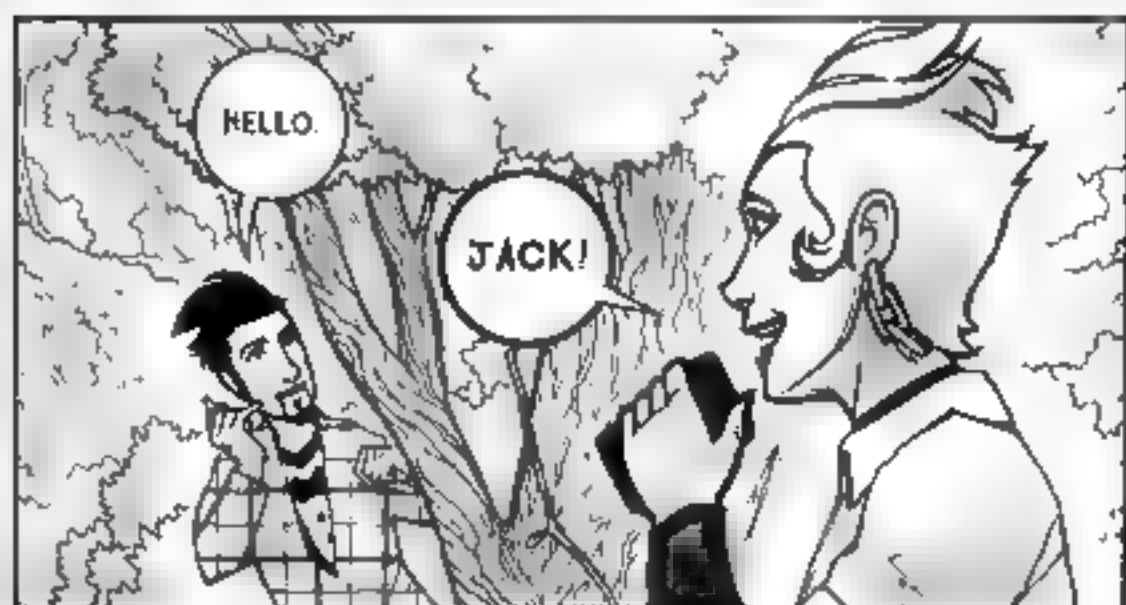
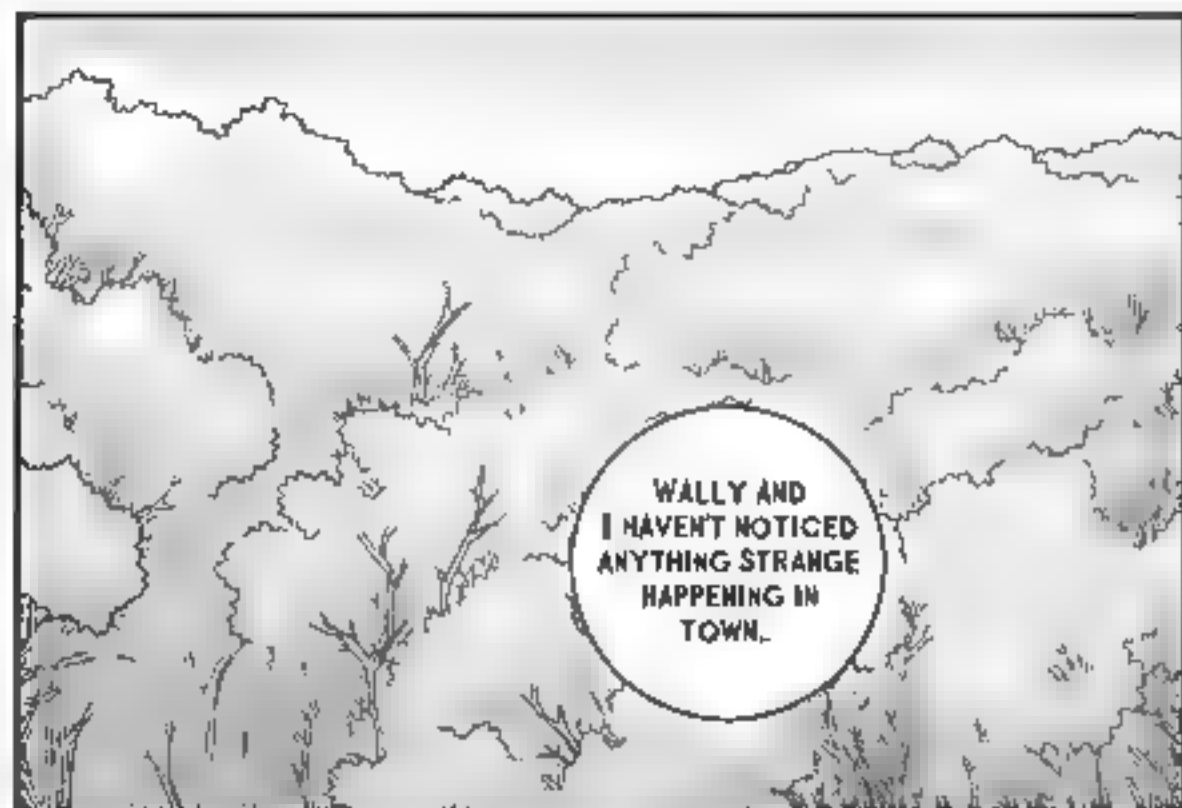
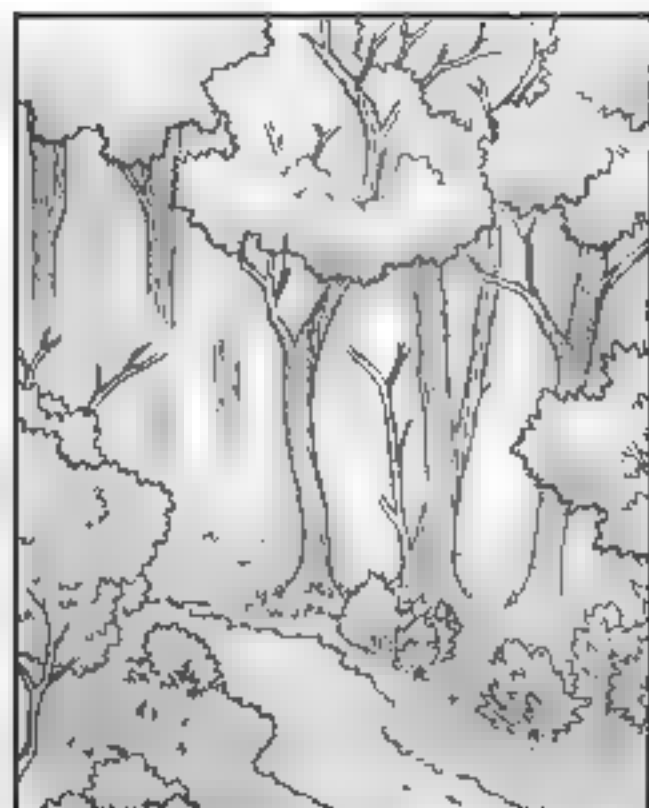
AND WHAT
HAPPENS IF
SOMEONE ELSE
COMES ALONG?
SOME KIND OF
THREAT?

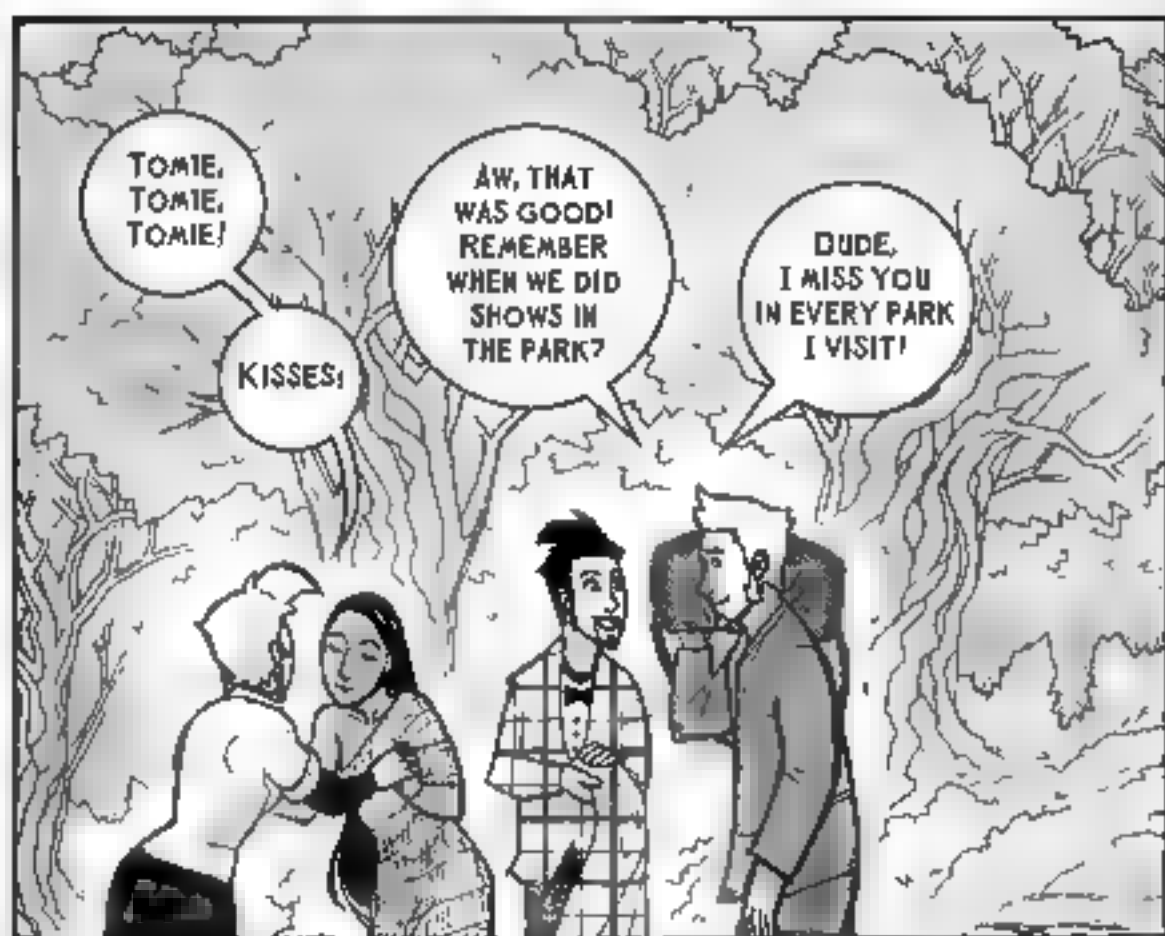
WHAT HAPPENS
IF WE NEED
SOMETHING
OTHER THAN A
CARETAKER?



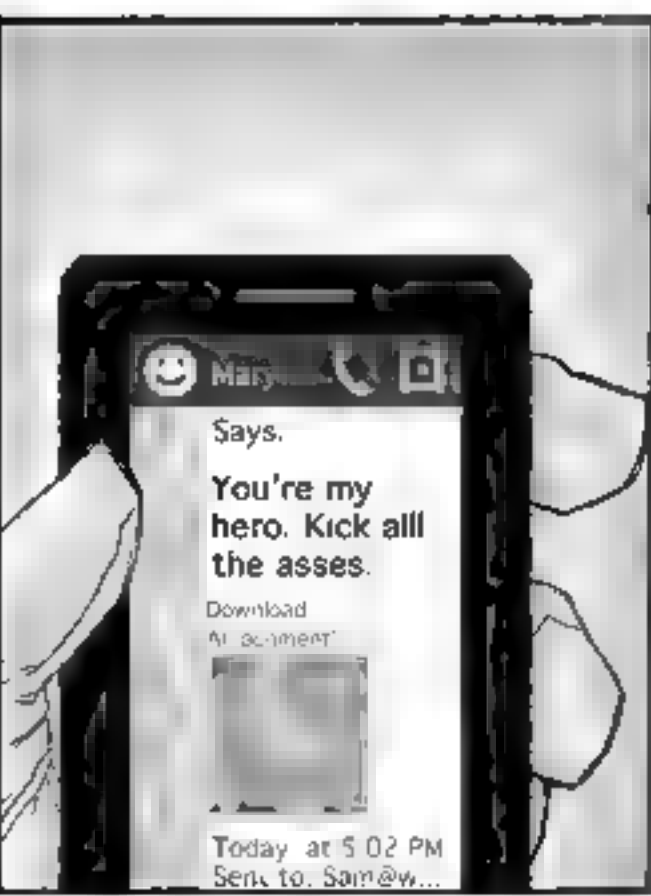
WELL
THEN I'LL
BE AN UNHOLY
MONSTER,
WON'T I?





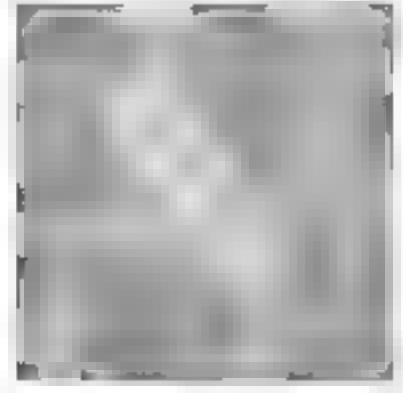






You're my hero. Kick the asses.

Download Attachment?



Today at 5:02 PM



HERE'S THE SITUATION: SANDRA IS BACK. IF SHE'S NOT ALREADY IN HER OLD STOMPING GROUNDS SHE'S PROBABLY ON THE WAY. WE DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE'S BEEN OR HOW LONG SHE WAS THERE, BUT I THINK IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME SHE STILL BEARS A GRUDGE TOWARDS US FOR SENDING HER THERE.

BUT WE'VE SPENT THE PAST FOUR YEARS PREPARING FOR THIS! I'VE MADE A SMALL ARSENAL OF SPECIAL SPELLS JUST FOR HER. TOMORROW WE'RE GOING TO GO INTO TOWN AND SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND...



SHOULDN'T WE WAIT FOR SAM? OR... WELL, WHO ELSE IS COMING?





SHE BUSTED MY RIBS AND BURNED DOWN HALF THE HOUSE, BUT WE DUG OUR HEELS IN AND PUT HER DOWN! THAT WAS A GREAT DAY!

AND NOW WE'RE GONNA DO IT AGAIN! RIGHT GUYS?? WE'RE GONNA FINISH THE JOB!



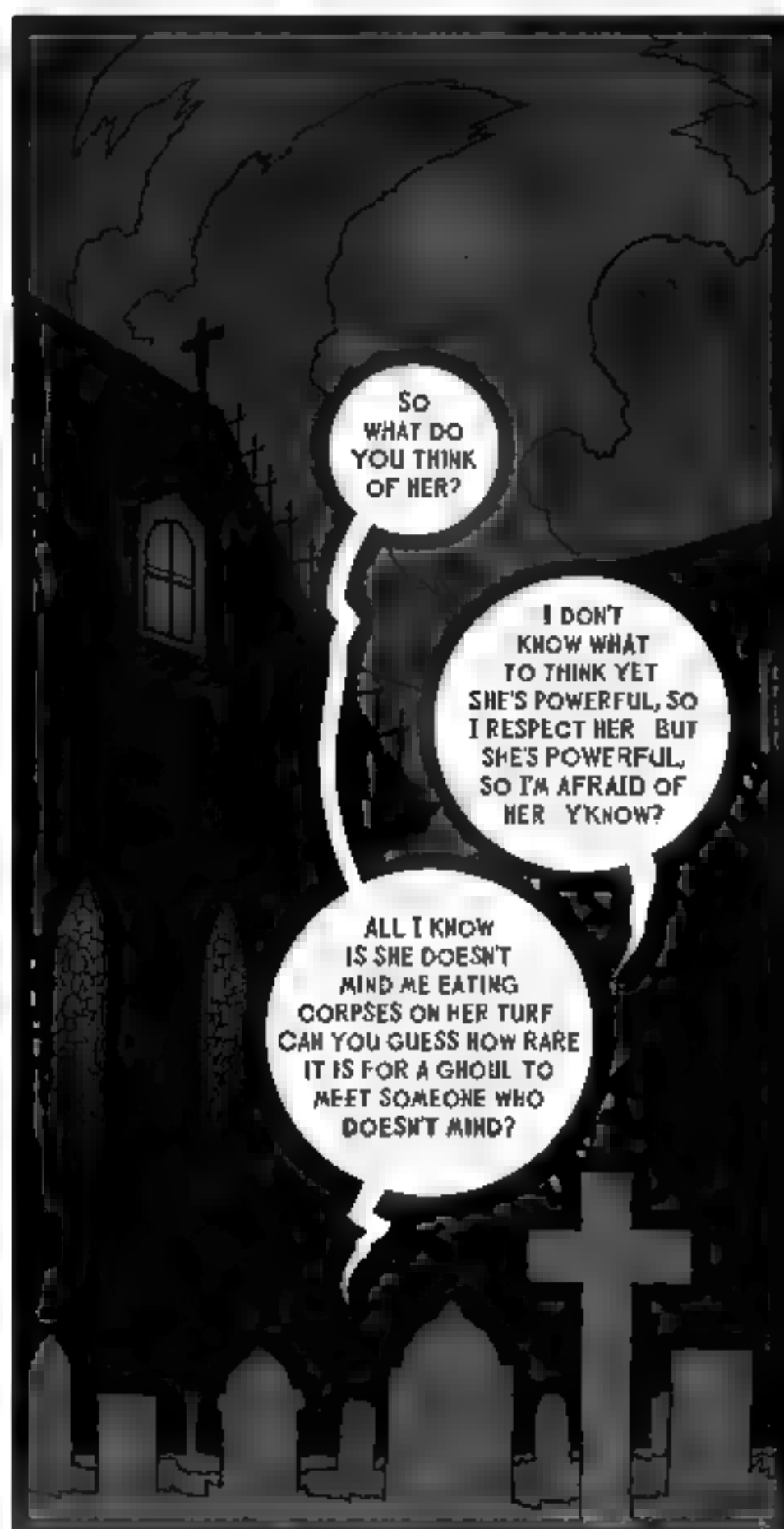
"FINISH THE JOB?"

WALLY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



WHAT ELSE?

WE'RE GOING TO DESTROY HER



SO WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HER?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK YET SHE'S POWERFUL, SO I RESPECT HER BUT SHE'S POWERFUL, SO I'M AFRAID OF HER Y'KNOW?

ALL I KNOW IS SHE DOESN'T MIND ME EATING CORPSES ON HER TURF CAN YOU GUESS HOW RARE IT IS FOR A GHOUL TO MEET SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T MIND?



I DON'T
MIND

YEAH,
BUT ARE
YOU IN
CHARGE?

POINT

SPEAKING OF EATING,
HOW'RE YOU GUYS DOING?
I HEAR SHE'S GOT YOU
ALL ON A PRETTY
SHORT LEASH.

ENH. IT'S
NOT SO BAD
SHE DOESN'T MIND
US SUCKING BLOOD,
BUT SHE'S PUT A STRICT
MORA MORATORIUM?
IS THAT THE
WORD?

MORATORIUM.

ON
MAKING NEW
VAMPIRES.

SAY, JUST WHAT IS THE
STORY HERE, ANYWAY?
WHY'RE THERE SO MANY
OF YOU GUYS IN THE
FIRST PLACE?

WELL...
MAKING VAMPIRES
IS KINDA LIKE SEX.
IT FEELS GREAT AND
REQUIRES ATMOSPHERE.
AND THIS TOWN IS FILTHY
WITH ATMOSPHERE IT'S
GOT SHADOWS LIKE SATIN
SHEETS, IT'S. HELL, I'M
IN THE MOOD RIGHT
NOW!

YEAH, YOU FOLKS WERE
MAKIN LIKE RABBITS
BEFORE ZANDRA
CAME ALONG.

AND ON
THAT NOTE, WHAT
THE HELL'RE YOU
SUPPOSED TO BE, LADY?

HAMMM.



THE AZTECS
KNEW US AS THE
CENTZOM TOTOCHTIN.
NOWADAYS WE'RE
"VORPAL POOK."

SOME SAY
WE'RE NASTY
AND ROTTEN.
OTHERS SAY
THAT VIEWS
MISBEGOTTEN

THAT
WE AREN'T
UNDERSTOOD.
THAT DEEP DOWN
WE'RE GOOD!
AS LOVELY AS
TAILS MADE OF
COTTON.



WHICH
TALE IS
TRUE?

FAITH, I'M
SURE I'VE
FORGOTTEN.



"POOK?" LIKE THE
JIMMY STEWART
MOVIE! THE, THE
BIG INVISIBLE
RABBIT?



YES. EVERYTHING'S COMING
UP RABBITS! RABBITS WEARING
CLOTHES, RABBITS ON THEIR
TOES, RABBITS LOOKING TO
WORSHIP A RABBIT
MESSIAH

MAYBE THERE'LL
BE A RABBIT
REVOLUTION!

RIGHT
YOU IN TOWN
TO CAUSE
TROUBLE?



WHY
WOULD I
NEED TO?

THERE'S
SO MUCH
TROUBLE
ALREADY
BEGUN ..



STRANGE?
WELL NO
NOT REALLY
EXCEPT...
WELL, NO

IS THIS A
SURVEY?

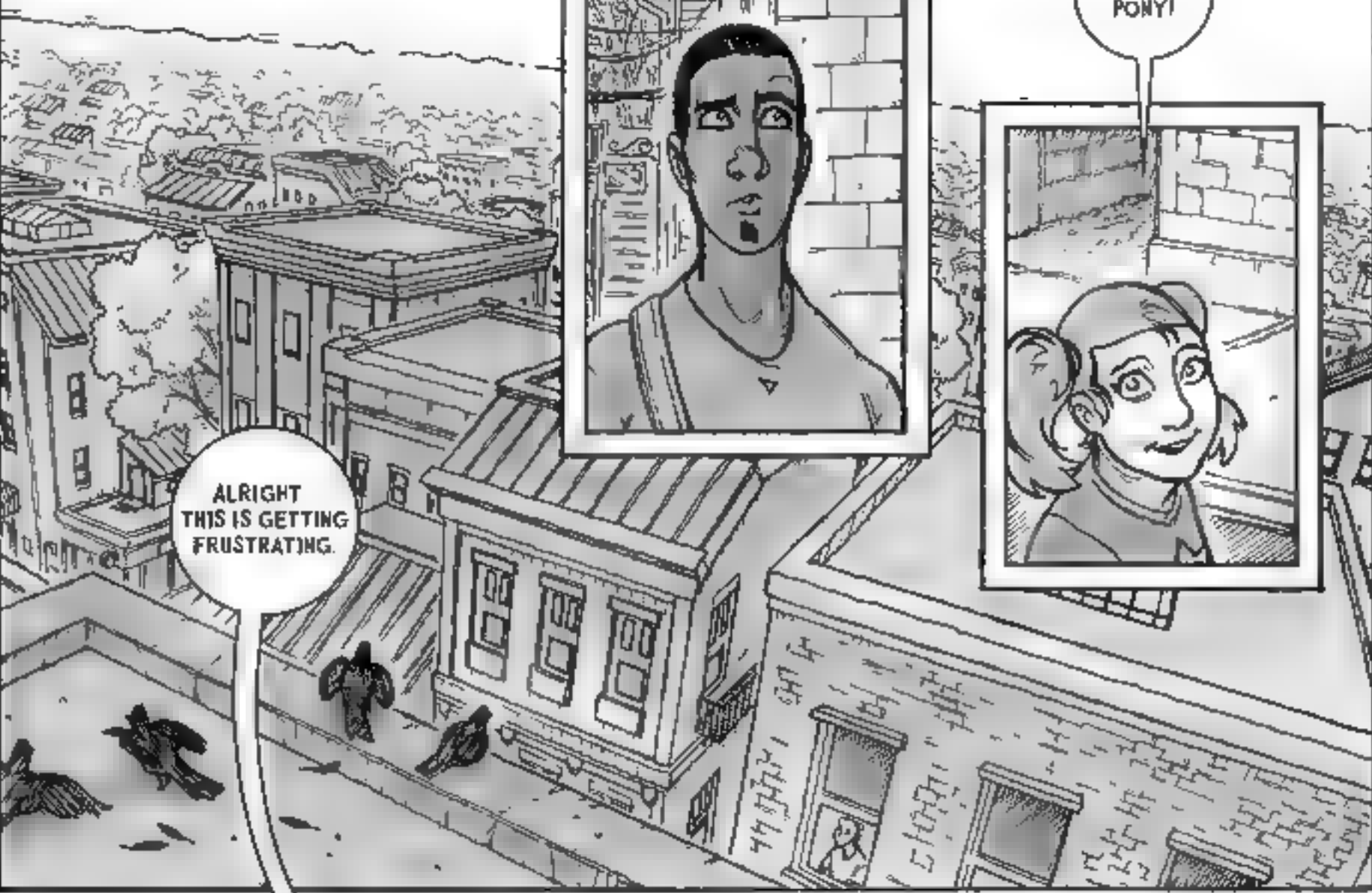


I HAVEN'T...
HMMM. YOU ASK
ME IF I'VE SEEN
ANYTHING
"STRANGE?"

I
DONT
THINK
SO...

I MEAN
I CANT
RECALL
ANYTHING
SPECIFIC..

I
TAW A
PONY!



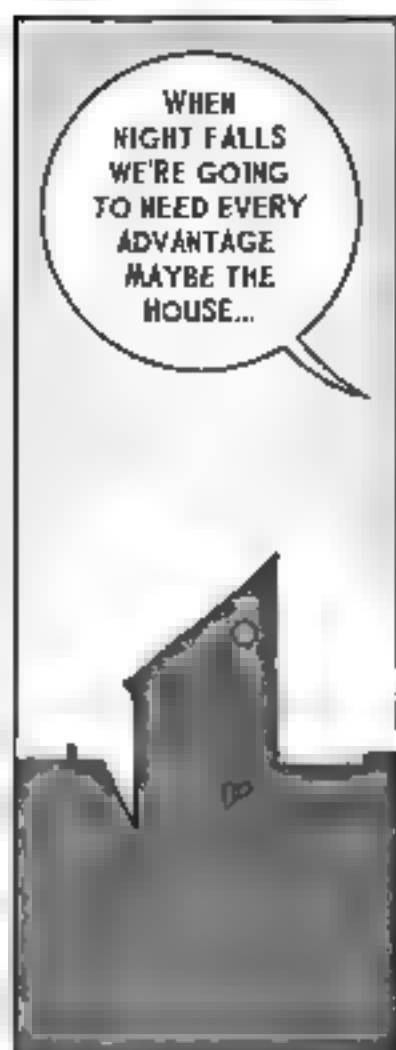
ALRIGHT
THIS IS GETTING
FRUSTRATING.



GOTTA
SAY, I DIDNT
THINK SHE'D MAKE
US HAVE TO WORK
TO ACTUALLY
FIND HER.

SNIFF!

ART BY
MISCELLANEOUS
NEWS







HSSS.

I
HISS AT
THEM.

THEY'RE
DANGEROUS
AREN'T THEY?
MONSTER
HUNTERS!

HEY
REMEMBER
THAT TALK WE
HAD ABOUT
PERSONAL
SPACE?

BUT
YOU'RE
SO PRETTY,
MISTRESS!

AND DON'T
CALL ME THAT
MAKES ME FEEL
LIKE A DOMINATRIX.



UHM...
MAAM?
MAJESTY?

EITHER
OF THOSE
IS FINE

ARE THEY
RIGHT? ARE
YOU GOING TO
HAVE A... REIGN
OF TERROR?



YES.

AND
YOU'LL ALL
BE FREE TO
JOIN IN.



SOON
I'LL HAVE
EVERY PERSON IN
TOWN SCREAMING
ON CUE. I'LL MAKE
A RENAISSANCE
OUT OF THEIR
NIGHTMARES.



BUT WHAT
ABOUT THEM?
THEY'LL TRY
TO STOP IT

AND SOMETHING
TELLS ME YOU'D
RATHER NOT HAVE
TO DEAL WITH THEM
YOURSELF..



NAH, I HAVEN'T GONE INTO TOWN YET. THEY FIGURED I OUGHTA HANG BACK WHILE THEY TEST THE WATERS. A FREAK LIKE ME COULD RAISE RED FLAGS, Y'KNOW

AND SOMEONE HAD TO WATCH THE PARDON?

OH, YES. SORRY FREAKS LIKE US

YOU LET ME KNOW IF THEY THROW YOU IN A ZOO. WE'LL BUST OUT AND OVERTHROW THE HUMANS IN A YEAR, YOU AND ME.

HEH.

TRUTH IS... I'M MISSING YOU A LOT. I THOUGHT I COULD MAN UP AND GET SOLID AGAIN, BUT I'M SHAKING, HONEY. I THINK YOU WERE THE ONLY THING KEEPING ME TOGETHER.

KEEP ME STRONG, MARY. OKAY? I NEED YOU TO HOLD MY HAND RIGHT NOW. JUST--

AH. YEAH, THEY'RE COMING BACK. I GOTTA GO. ...OKAY.

HEY! YOU FIND ANYTHING? IS SHE HERE OR WHAT?

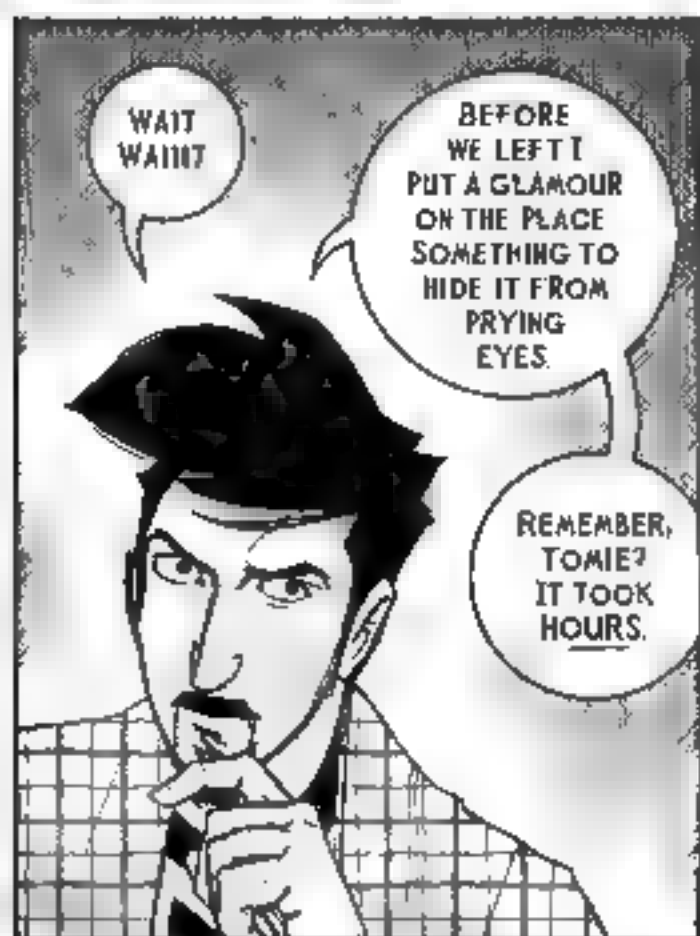
SHE'S DEFINITELY IN THE AREA! BUT THAT'S ALL WE GOT.

THERE WERE NO SIGNS, NO CHALLENGES OR WARNINGS. I REALLY ASSUMED SHE WOULD HAVE A VENDETTA AGAINST US. BUT NOW I'M STARTING TO THINK SHE DOESN'T CARE! AND I DON'T KNOW IF THAT MAKES ME HAPPY OR SCARED.

I HEAR YOU. BUT HOW DOES THE HOUSE LOOK?

THE HOUSE?

THE HOUSE!!





SHE
DOUBLED
BACK



SHE'S
GONE
INTO TOWN
ALONE!



ARE
YOU THERE,
SANDRA?

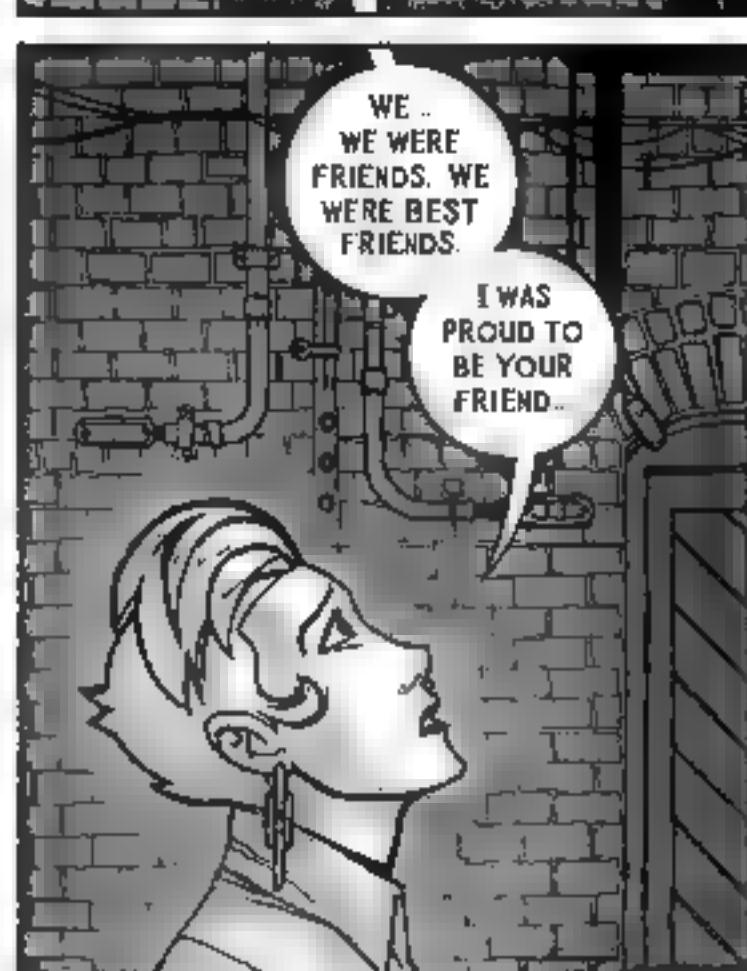
IT'S ME,
CRYSTAL

CAN
YOU
HEAR
ME?



SANDRA?

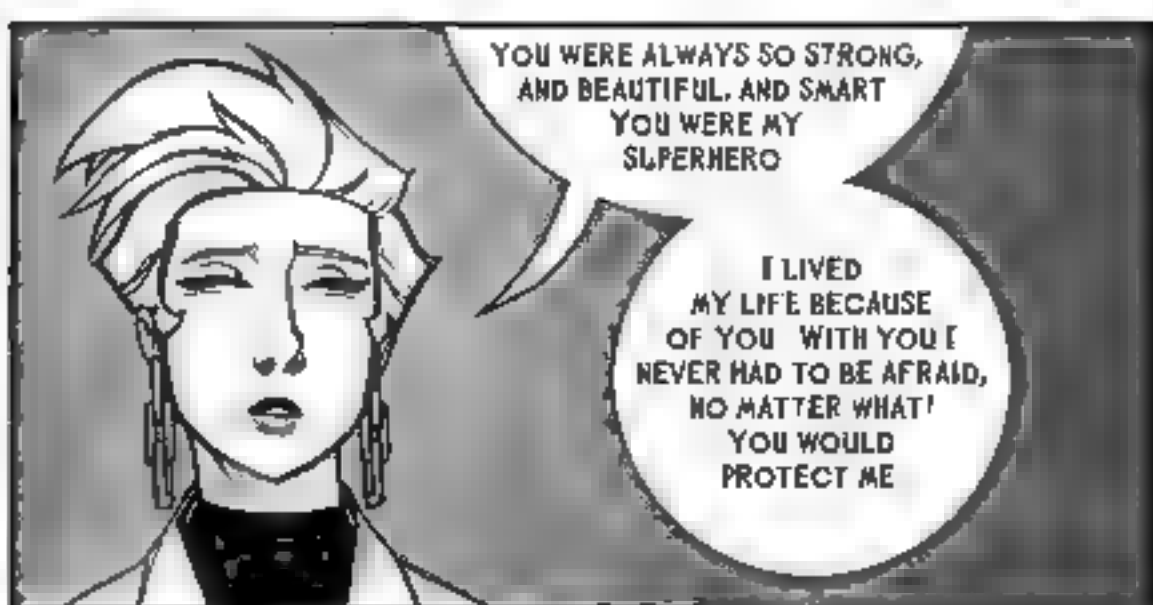
DO
YOU
REMEMBER
ME?



WE
WE WERE
FRIENDS. WE
WERE BEST
FRIENDS.

I WAS
PROUD TO
BE YOUR
FRIEND...





YOU WERE ALWAYS SO STRONG,
AND BEAUTIFUL, AND SMART
YOU WERE MY
SUPERHERO

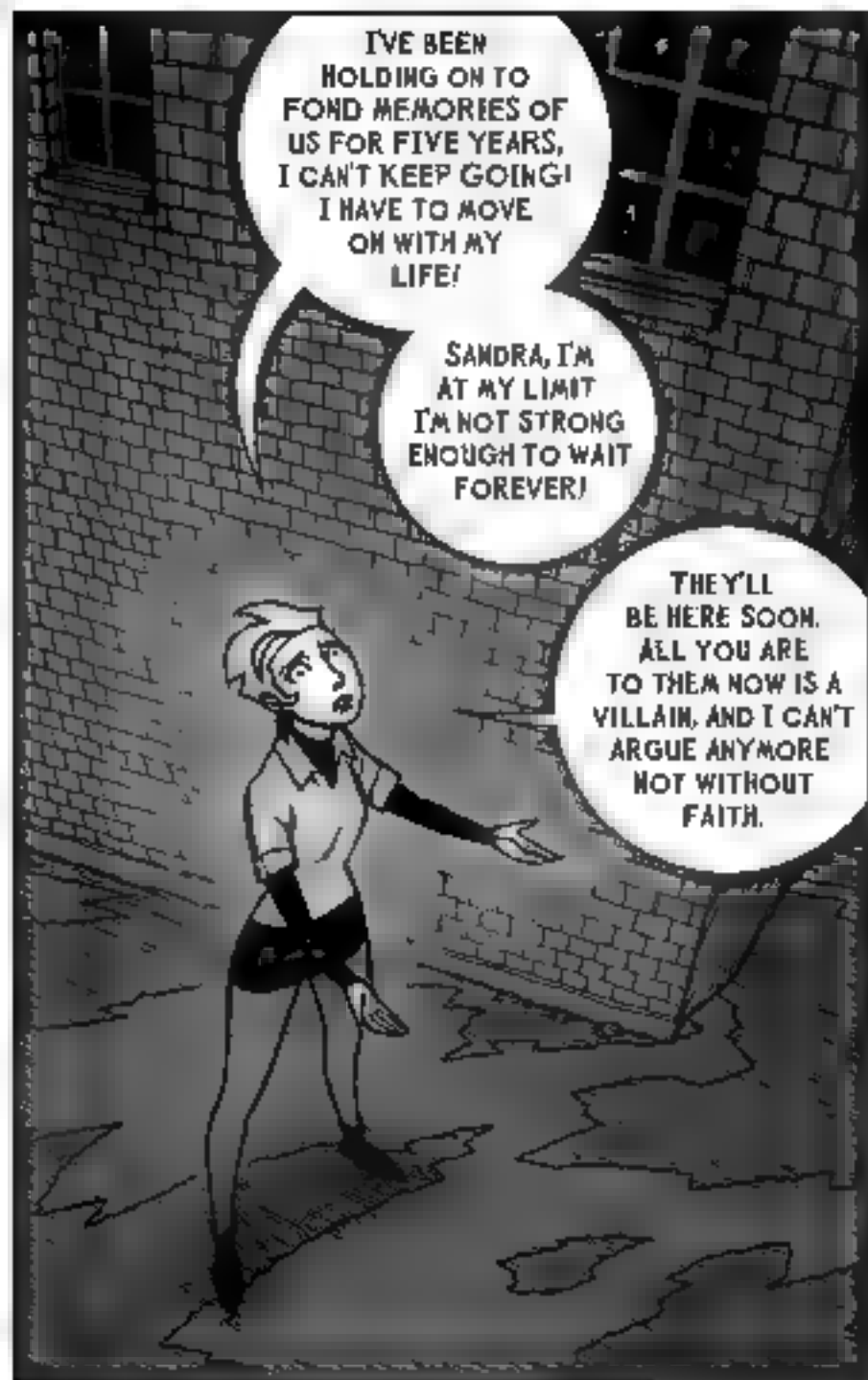
I LIVED
MY LIFE BECAUSE
OF YOU WITH YOU I
NEVER HAD TO BE AFRAID,
NO MATTER WHAT!
YOU WOULD
PROTECT ME



I WAS HONORED THAT YOU
PUT SO MUCH EFFORT INTO ME
A LITTLE LOST CAUSE I DON'T
WANT TO BELIEVE THAT
THERE'S NONE OF THAT
LEFT

SO I NEED
SOMETHING FROM
YOU NOW, SANDRA.
JUST ANYTHING
PLEASE.

I'M
ABOUT
TO GIVE
UP



I'VE BEEN
HOLDING ON TO
FOND MEMORIES OF
US FOR FIVE YEARS,
I CAN'T KEEP GOING!
I HAVE TO MOVE
ON WITH MY
LIFE!

SANDRA, I'M
AT MY LIMIT
I'M NOT STRONG
ENOUGH TO WAIT
FOREVER!

THEY'LL
BE HERE SOON.
ALL YOU ARE
TO THEM NOW IS A
VILLAIN, AND I CAN'T
ARGUE ANYMORE
NOT WITHOUT
FAITH.



JUST
GIVE ME A
SIGN.



EXCUSE
ME SANDRA
EASTLAKE,
RIGHT?



YEAH, I BET
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT SANDRA
EASTLAKE

I KNEW
HER ONCE.
SHE DROPPED OUT
OF SIGHT A WHILE AGO
BUT FOLKS STILL TALK
ABOUT HER. I MEAN,
IF THAT'S WHO
YOU MEANT



UM, YES!
YES, SHE'S...
SHE WAS A
FRIEND OF
MINE.

I KNOW
HOW YOU
FEEL. YOU MISS
SOMEONE, YOU
TALK TO CLOUDS.
I'VE DONE
IT TOO

SO WHO
THINKS
SHE'S A
VILLAIN?



IT'S COMPLICATED
BUT... WAS SHE
YOUR FRIEND
TOO?

SHE WORKED
WITH US, THOUGH
I THINK SHE WAS
MORE SUITED TO
MANAGEMENT



IN FACT
WE JUST HEARD
FROM HER.

APPARENTLY
SHE DOESN'T
LIKE YOU
ANYMORE





OH.



OH NO

I'M REALLY SORRY, BUT WE'VE GOT OUR ORDERS.



YEAH, WE'RE REALLY SORRY!

WOOO!



BELIEVE ME, IF I WAS STILL ALIVE I'D NEVER EVEN THINK ABOUT KILLING YOU!

SANDRA!!



OKAY, HOW SHOULD WE DO THIS? I COULD DROP HER AND MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A SUICIDE, OR WE COULD EAT HER AND GET RID OF ANY EVIDENCE.

SANDRA!!

HEY, UH, HEY GUYS, I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN HANDLE THIS ARE WE REALLY GONNA KILL HER?

WELL IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE A CHOICE! SHE'S SEEN US BEING VAMPIRES AND STUFF!



YEAH.
DROP
'ER.



SANDRA.

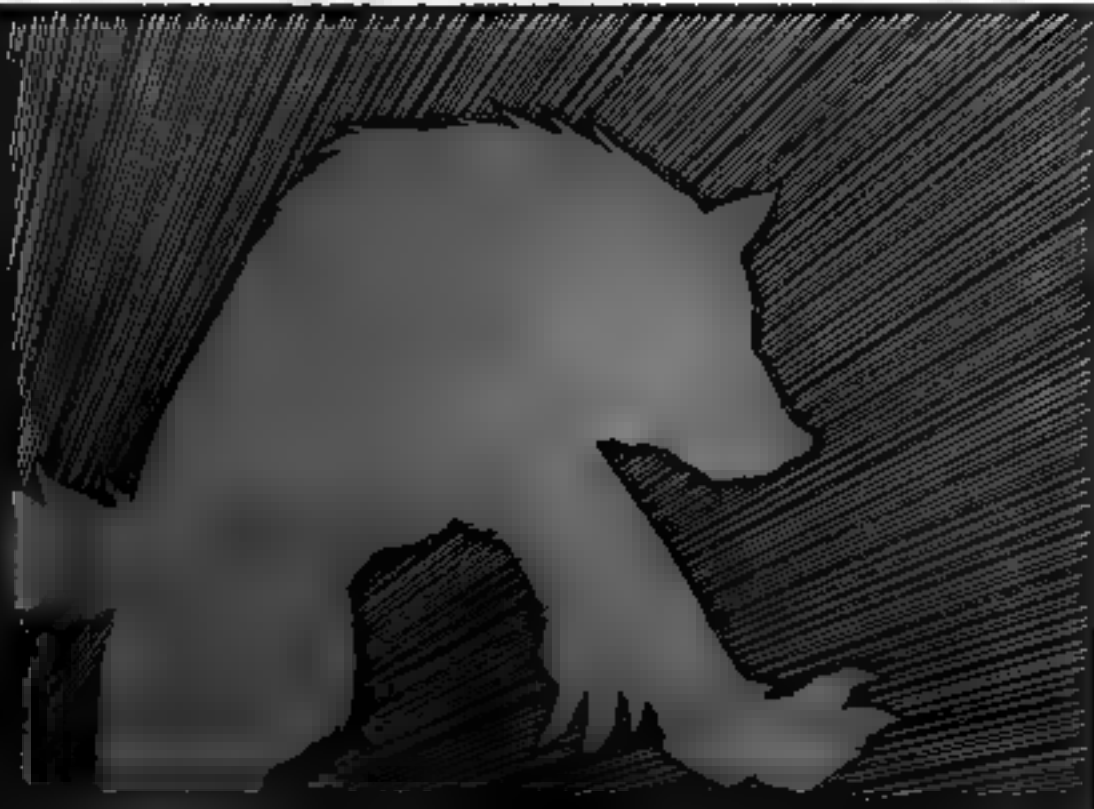


ZANDRA

SHE'S
ZANDRA
NOW AND SHE
TALKS TO US.
NOT
YOU.



YOU'RE
BENEATH
HER



UHHF!





I GOT TWO NAILS
IN YOU, DIDN'T I?
WELL NOW YOU
ALSO CAN'T
LIE TO ME.

SO TELL ME
HAVE YOU SEEN
OUR DEVIL? SHE'S
BLACK AND WHITE
AND SCARY
AND SEXY

HEH.
HEHE PEH PEH.
HA HA HA!
YEAH! YEAH,
I'VE SEEN
HER!

I DON'T
NEED TO LIE
ZANDRA ALREADY
KNOWS YOU'RE HERE.
SHE DOESN'T NEED
PROTECTION FROM YOU!
YOU'RE JUST NOT
WORTH HER FOCUS,
BRO!

THAT'S
WHY SHE SENT
US SHE'S GOT
BETTER THINGS TO
DO THAN WASTE
TIME WITH YOU
CLOWNS!

HMM.

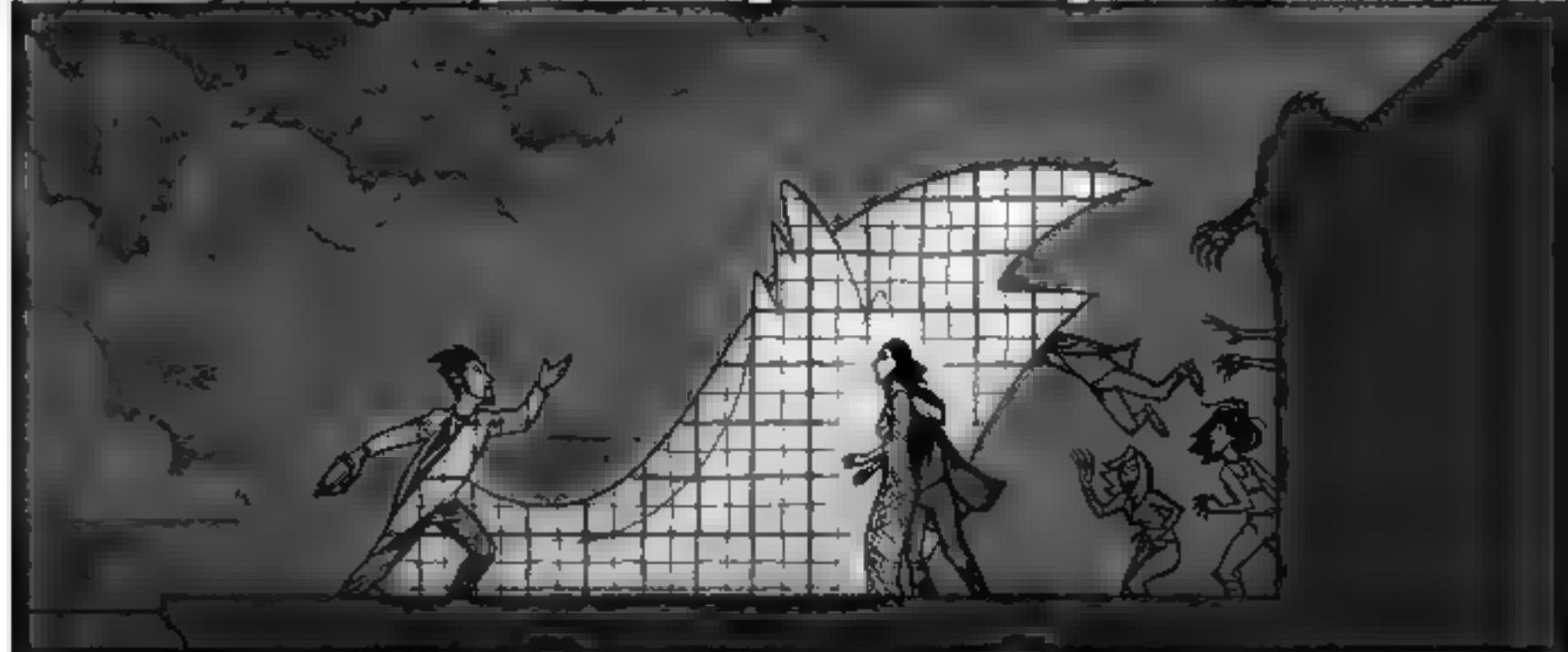
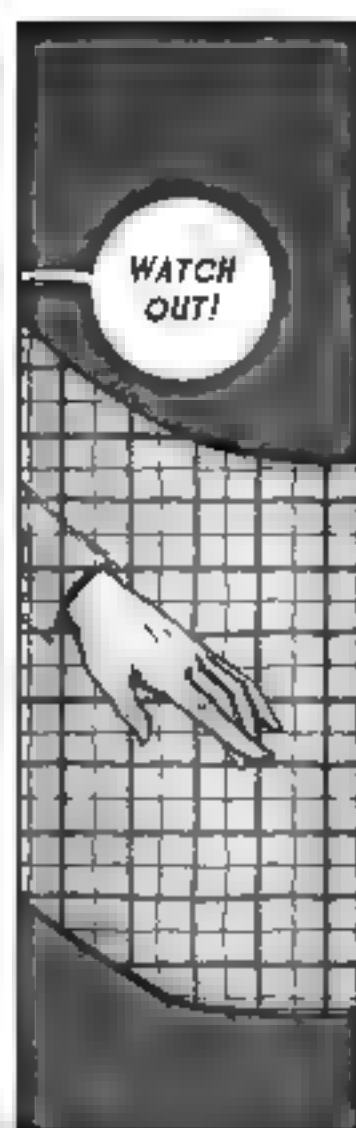
DO YOU
THINK SHE'LL
COME AFTER US
HERSELF NOW THAT
YOU'VE BLOWN
THE JOB?

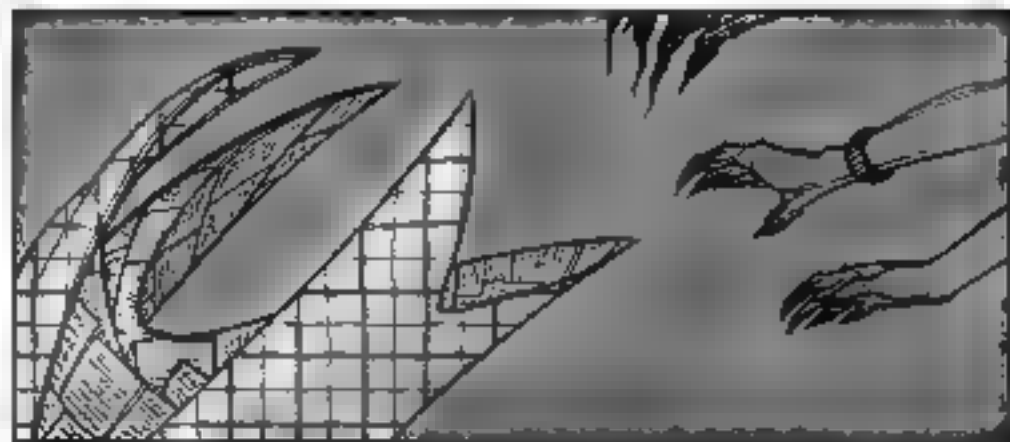
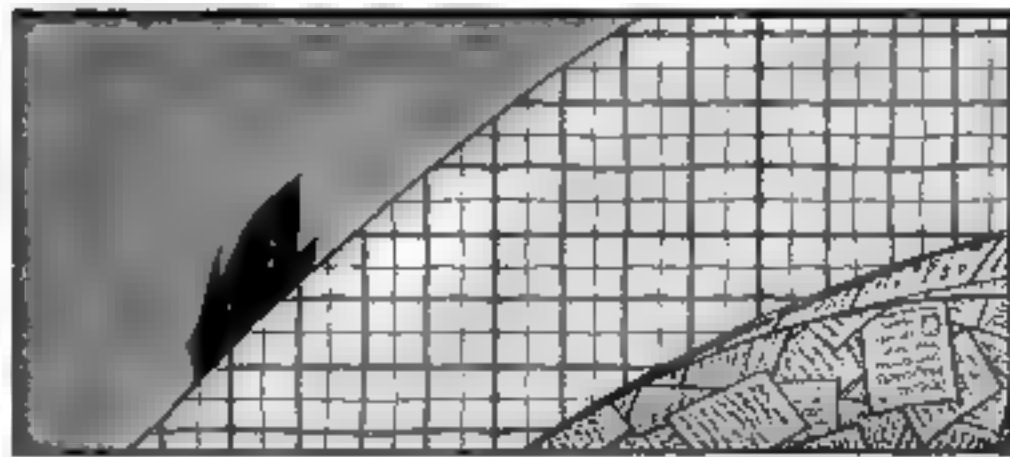
HA HA!
NO, YOU
THINK WE'RE
DONE??

UH UHM. YOU
MAKE TOO MUCH
NOISE, DUMBASS.
WE SLEEP LIGHT IN
THIS NECK OF
THE WOODS.

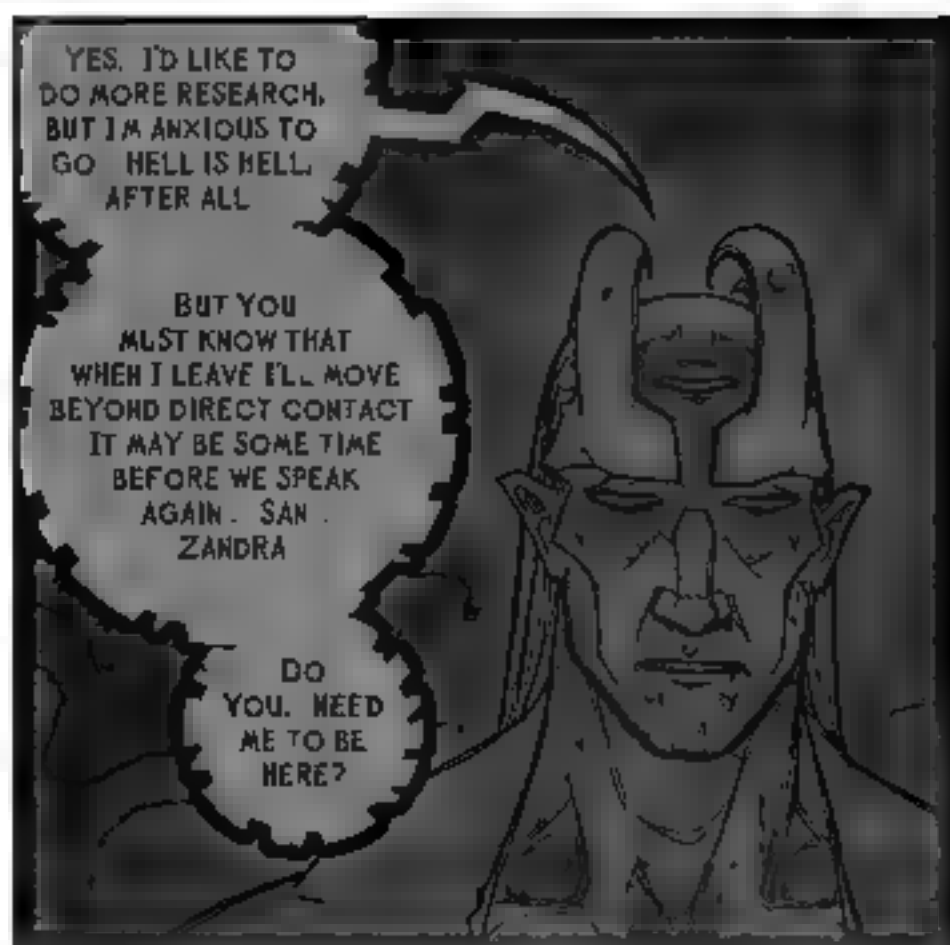
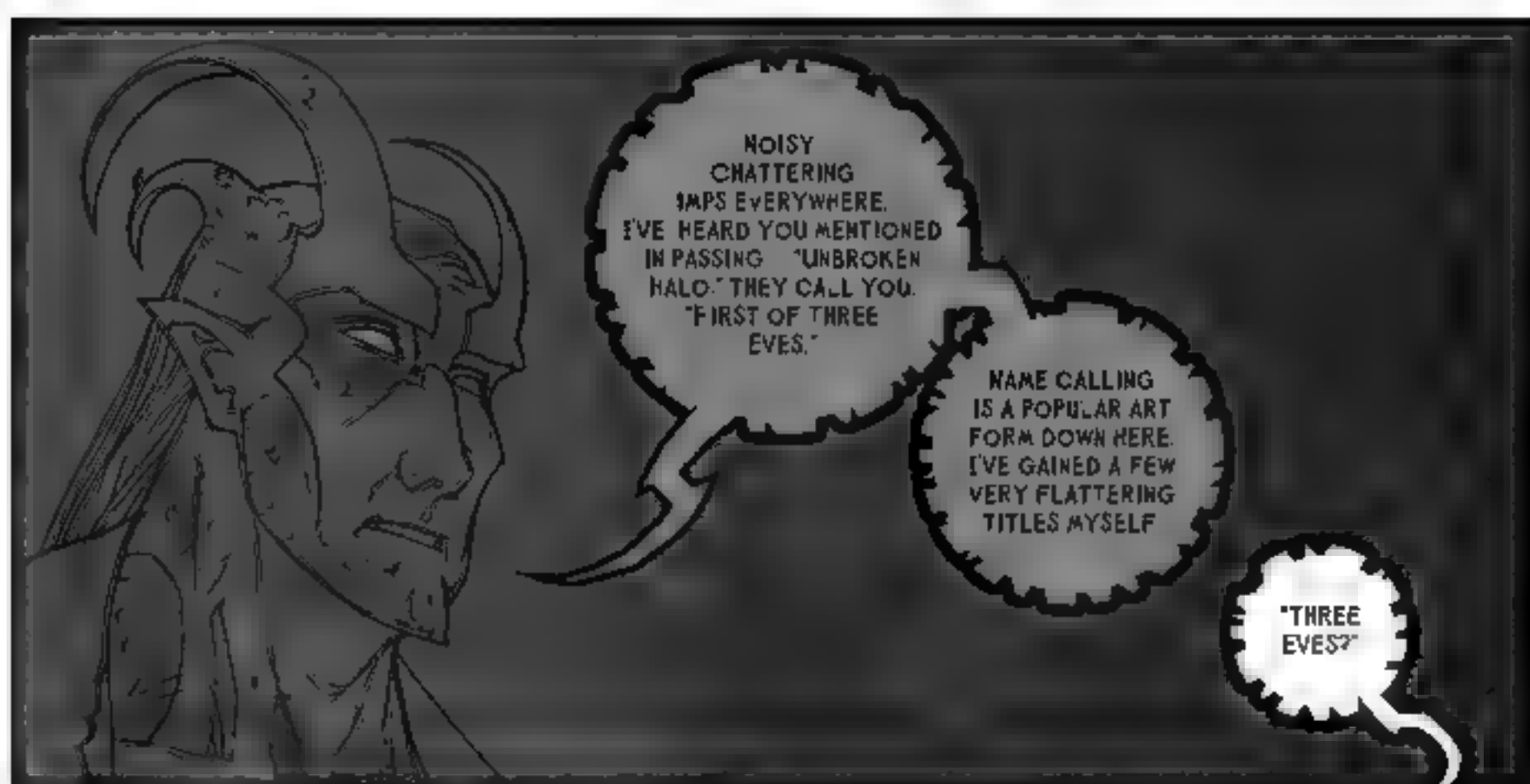
PLENTY
OF CAVALRY,
KNOW WHAT
I MEAN?


TOMIE











WE'VE
BOTH
CHANGED


GOD,
SOMETIMES
I THINK THAT'S
ALL WE DO. EVEN
MY HOUSE IS MUTATING
OUT OF CONTROL.
AND THEN THERE'S
MY RELATIONSHIP
WITH...

WELL.
WHERE WILL
YOU GO,
ANYWAY?



I CAN GO
ANYWHERE
FROM HERE.
ANYWHERE
AT ALL

WHO KNOWS
WHAT LIES AHEAD?
PERHAPS I'LL EXPLORE
THAT DREAMLAND YOU
TOLD ME ABOUT
I FEEL MY LIFE
HAS BEGUN.



BEWARE
OF BLACK
BOXES

LISTEN,
I GUESS I'M
NOT IN THE MOOD
FOR LONG GOODBYES.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO
GO, THEN GO. I'LL FEEL
BETTER KNOWING
YOU'VE LEFT
HELL

ALL RIGHT
BUT THERE'S ONE
MORE THING THAT
PERTAINS TO US BOTH..
ONE MORE NAME
THEY'VE GIVEN.

A REAL NAME,
ASSIGNED TO OUR
RACE TO DEFINITELY
DESCRIBE US FROM
NOW ON


AH.
OUR "RACE"
ARE WE REALLY
A RACE? IT'S
JUST THE TWO
OF US, ISN'T
IT?

I SUPPOSE

WHAT
ARE WE,
GREGORE?



NEFASTIS




HEY MAAM?
YOU, UH,
TALKIN' TO
SOMEONE?

I HATE TO
INTERRUPT...



NO,
BLOO.


I'M
ALONE.



WELL
I GOT
NEWS.


SHE... SHE
WON'T WANT
US TO GO UP TO
SEE HER, WILL SHE?
I CAN'T EVEN THINK
ABOUT CLIMBING
THOSE STAIRS
ON FOOT...

DO YOU
THINK SHE'LL
BE UPSET?




WHAT
WERE YOU
THINKING?

JUST TELL
ME, WHAT
WERE YOU
THINKING??



DO
YOU KNOW HOW
SCARED I WAS?
I THOUGHT I WAS
GOING TO LOSE
YOU! I ALMOST
DID!



YOU
LIED TO
ME! FOR
WHAT? FOR
HER?

AFTER
EVERYTHING
SHE'S DONE??

SHE TERRORIZED
THE WHOLE TOWN!
SHE ATTACKED
US!

SHE'S NOT
YOUR FRIEND!
SHE DOESN'T
CARE ABOUT YOU!
SHE DOESN'T
CARE ABOUT
ANYTHING!

CRYSTAL,
I. I'M THE ONE
WHO CARES ABOUT
YOU! DON'T YOU
BELIEVE ME? DON'T
YOU KNOW

I KNOW

I KNOW
I'M SORRY
YOU'RE RIGHT
I'LL NEVER DO
IT AGAIN

BUT I
HAD TO GIVE
HER ONE MORE
CHANCE

SHE
DIDN'T
TAKE IT

OH, HONEY,
I'M... SORRY I
YELLED.

JUST
DON'T EVER
THINK YOU
HAVE TO LIE.
NOT TO
ME.

SHFF

A-ARE YOU
OKAY NOW,
TOMIE?

SHE'LL BE
ALL RIGHT
AND HEY AT LEAST
WE LEARNED
SOMETHING!


NOW WE
KNOW SANDRA'S
NOT ALONE




SHE'S GOT
HERSELF A REGULAR
ARMY OF DARKNESS
LET'S HOPE THEY CAN'T
FOLLOW US OUT
HERE!

HA HA!
YEAH, THAT'S
TERRIFYING.


I'LL BE
MORE
TERRIFYING!



UH.
WHERE'S
SAM?



GOOD QUESTION!
HE WAS FOLLOWING US
IN THE CAR BUT DROVE
OFF DOWN A SIDE ROAD
HALFWAY INTO TOWN.
MAYBE HE NOTICED
SOMETHING

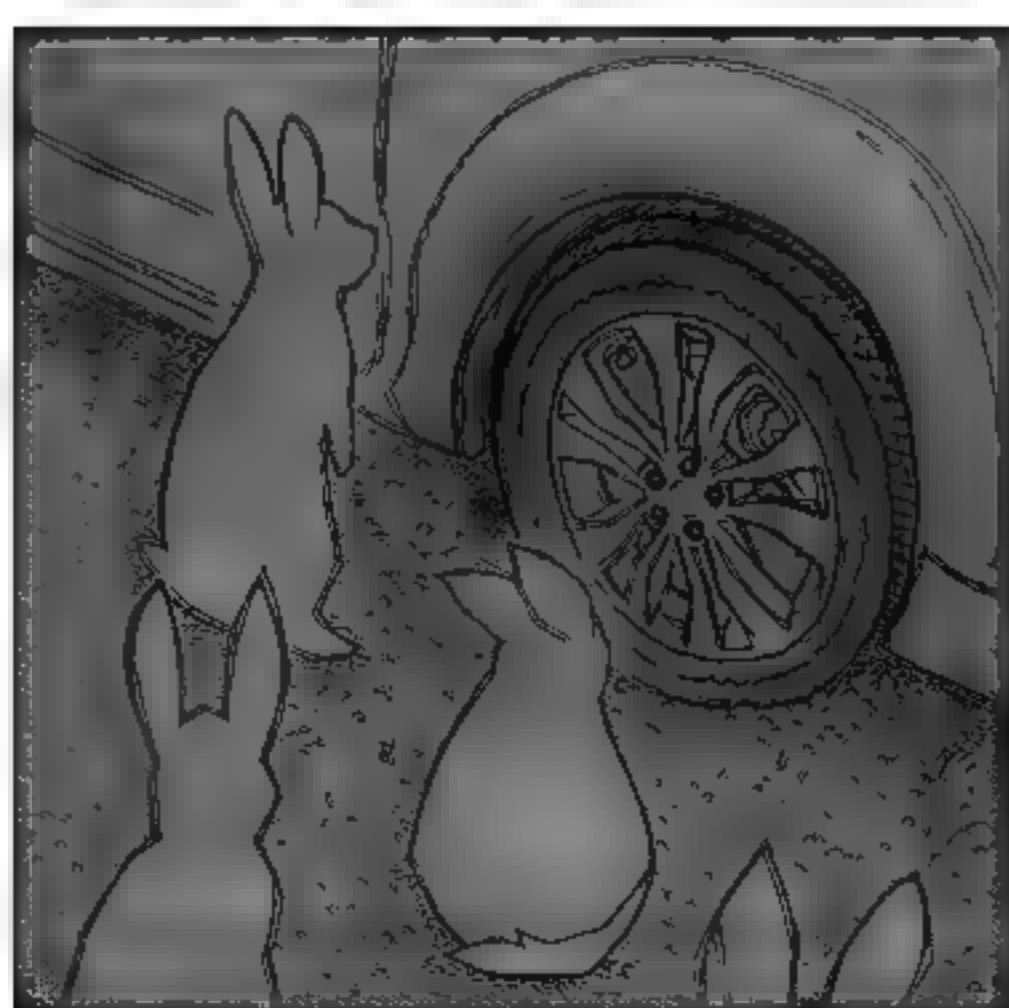


SO..
ARE WE
GOING TO GO
FIND HIM
NOW?

HELL YES,
BECAUSE WE'RE
NOT SUPPOSED
TO SPLIT UP,
DAMNIT!

WHY DO
WE KEEP
SPLITTING
UP??

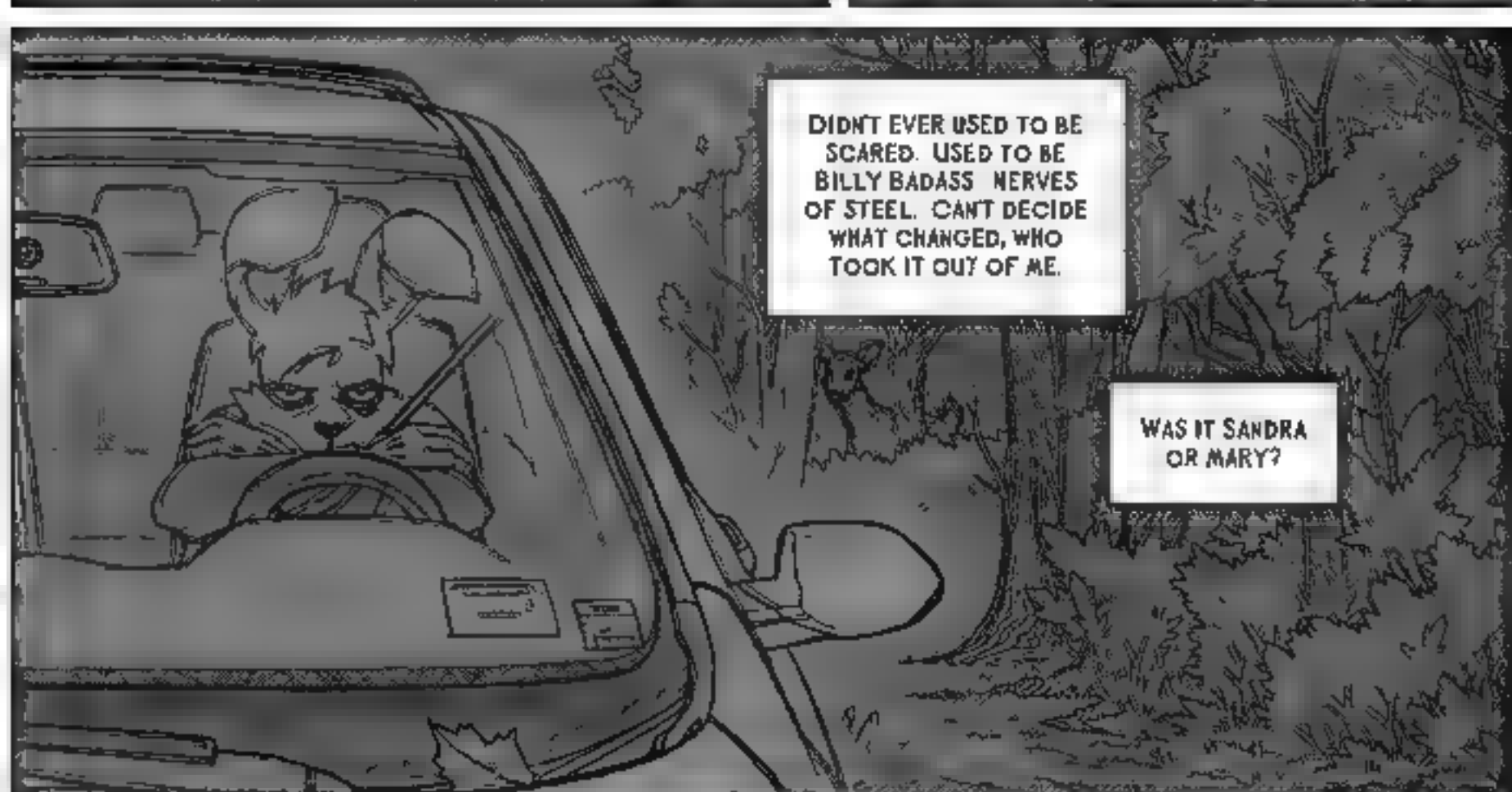




SO I RAN.



RAN LIKE A
FRIGHTENED
RABBIT



DIDNT EVER USED TO BE
SCARED. USED TO BE
BILLY BADASS NERVES
OF STEEL. CANT DECIDE
WHAT CHANGED, WHO
TOOK IT OUT OF ME.

WAS IT SANDRA
OR MARY?

HALFWAY INTO TOWN AND
ALL OF A SUDDEN ALL I
CAN THINK OF IS MY GIRL
AND JUST LIKE THAT, TURNING
TAIL BECOMES THE BEST IDEA
IN THE WORLD BECAUSE I CAN'T
IMAGINE SANDRA DOING
ANYTHING BESIDES TAKING
ME AWAY FROM HER

DID SANDRA BREAK
ME THAT BAD? OR DID
MARY MAKE MY LIFE
TOO SWEET?

FRIENDS NEED ME
STILL CANT GET
MYSELF TO GO

AT LEAST LIVE UP
TO STANDARDS.
YOU'RE AN ACTOR, DAMN IT
DONT LET THEM
SEE YOU BLEED.

tap
tap
tap

tap
tap
tap

HEY
SAILOR

..HEY
YOU
TRYING TO
MAKE ME NERVOUS
HERE, LADY? 'CAUSE
I'VE SEEN SCARIER
TEETH DOWN
SOUTH.

AND IF IT'S
SOMETHING
ELSE YOU'RE
AFTER, SCRAM.
I GOT A GIRL

MMMMMM,
NO I'M JUST A
SHOWOFF, I'M AFRAID
THOUGH IF YOU LIKE
WHAT YOU
SEE ..

SKIP IT,
I KNOW WHAT
YOU ARE. RAN
INTO ONE OF YOU
TYPES A FEW
YEARS AGO


AH, MY
BLESSED
BROTHER ZIN!
BUT WE'RE REALLY
ALL KIM, RABBITS
AMONG
MEN.

WE SIMPLY
MUST BUILD
BRIDGES
TO AVOID
CONFUSION.



LET US
SHARE MORE
THAN MERELY A
LAGOMORPHIC DISPOSITION
WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME
WHAT DOES SCARE YOU,
AND WE'LL GO FROM
THERE?

NOT IN
THE MOOD
FOR THIS.



HMM. MAYBE I CAN
GUESS! ARE YOU
AFRAID FOR YOUR
FRIENDS?

THEY
WERE ATTACKED
BY VAMPIRES. BUT
DON'T FRET THEY'RE
SAFE AT THEIR
SHACK

IS IT...
HER? OUR
RISING STAR?
THE ZEBRA, THE ZANDRA,
KEEPER OF THE TWILIGHT
ZOO? ARE YOU AFRAID
OF MEETING
HER?

OR ARE
YOU MORE
AFRAID OF THE
ALTERNATIVE?

FEAR IS A
LITTLE LIKE SEX.
YES? IT'S ALL ABOUT
ANTICIPATION, A SHORT
AND SHIVERY ROAD
TO AN ENVISIONED
CLIMAX.

WHAT IF I...
TOOK YOU TO
HER? RIGHT NOW?
YOU ALONE, BEFORE
ALL HER POWERS.
WOULDN'T THAT
BE FOOLISH?

OF COURSE,
I PROMISED THAT
I WOULDN'T CAUSE TROUBLE
BUT THEN... COULD I REALLY
BE BLAMED FOR YOUR BEHAVIOR?
AFTER ALL, IT WOULD BE
UP TO YOU WHAT TO DO
ONCE WE GOT THERE
MAYBE YOU'D
BE NICE

BUT
WHOSE FAULT
WOULD IT BE IF
YOU WEREN'T?
NOT MINE



"WHOSE
FAULT"
STARTING TO GET
SICK OF THAT
QUESTION.

I WONDER
WHAT I'D REALLY
DO IF I SAW HER
GO FOR THE THROAT?
BREAK DOWN AND
PANIC?

MAYBE I'D
SURPRISE
MYSELF



IT'S A
BAAAAAD
IDEA.

..YEAH.



BETTER
WRITE A
NOTE

SAM?

IT FEELS
LIKE MY FRIENDS
JUST VANISHED.
LIKE THEY WERE
NEVER REALLY
THERE FOR ME

MM HM.

AND I KNOW
IT'S NOT FAIR TO
FEEL BETRAYED, BECAUSE
THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
I'M THE ONE WHO
DISAPPEARED. I'M
THE VAMPIRE

BUT
I SEE THEM
WALKING AROUND
LIKE NORMAL. AND I'M
LIKE "WHY DON'T YOU
NOTICE ME? SHOULDN'T
THERE BE SOMETHING?
SOME KIND OF DEEP
CONNECTION THAT
HELPS YOU FIND
ME?"

DON'T FEEL
TOO BAD FOR
BLAMING THEM.
THAT'S NATURAL AND IT'S
NOT A REACTION YOU
HAVE TO ELIMINATE
RIGHT AWAY

GO AHEAD
AND HUMP
YOUR TANTRUM.
IT'LL PASS IF
YOU LET IT

ISN'T
IT WRONG,
THOUGH?

IT'S
HUMAN
NATURE

LAST
ONE,
PAL

OKAY,
I'M READ--
AAGH!

I APPRECIATE
YOU TALKING
WITH ME ABOUT
THIS. I KNOW
YOU'RE BUSY

WELL I
KNOW HOW
YOU FEEL, SHAUN.
THERE WERE TIMES
WHEN I STARVED FOR
SOMEONE TO RELATE TO
NOW I'M SURROUNDED
BY PEOPLE IN THE
SAME BOAT

JERRY GO
GET SOME REST
I'LL WANT TO TALK
WITH YOU ALL ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENED
WHEN YOU'RE
BETTER.

UURGH.
OKAY...
ARE YOU
MAD?

PROBABLY

MA'AM?

I TOOK
THE CENSUS
COUNTING MYSELF,
FOURTEEN PEOPLE GOT
VAMPIRIZED RIGHT HERE
IN TOWN. MOSTLY LOW
PROFILE TYPES. SOME
HOMELESS THE REST
CAME FROM OUT
WEST

THANKS ROLAND
I'D LIKE TO KNOW IF
ANY OF THEM HAVE FAMILY
THEY'D LIKE TO CONTACT
HOW ABOUT
YOU?

NAH, ALL
I HAD WAS
MY CAT

NOW, YOU
WANTED THE
SCHEDULE FOR THE
TOWN COUNCIL
THIS MONTH ..

HOLD ON,
I'VE GOT A
CALENDAR ON
MY... UGH.

IT'S SO
DAMN HARD
TO WORK THESE
TOUCH PADS WITH
FINGERS LIKE MINE..
I NEED TO GET A
STYLUS.

HEY YOU!
D'YOU HAVE AN
APPOINTMENT?

WE'RE
ALL KINDS OF
BUSY UP HERE PAL,
YOU BETTER HEAD ON
DOWN TO THE FOYER
AND WAIT FOR US TO
CALL YOU UP
CAPICHE?

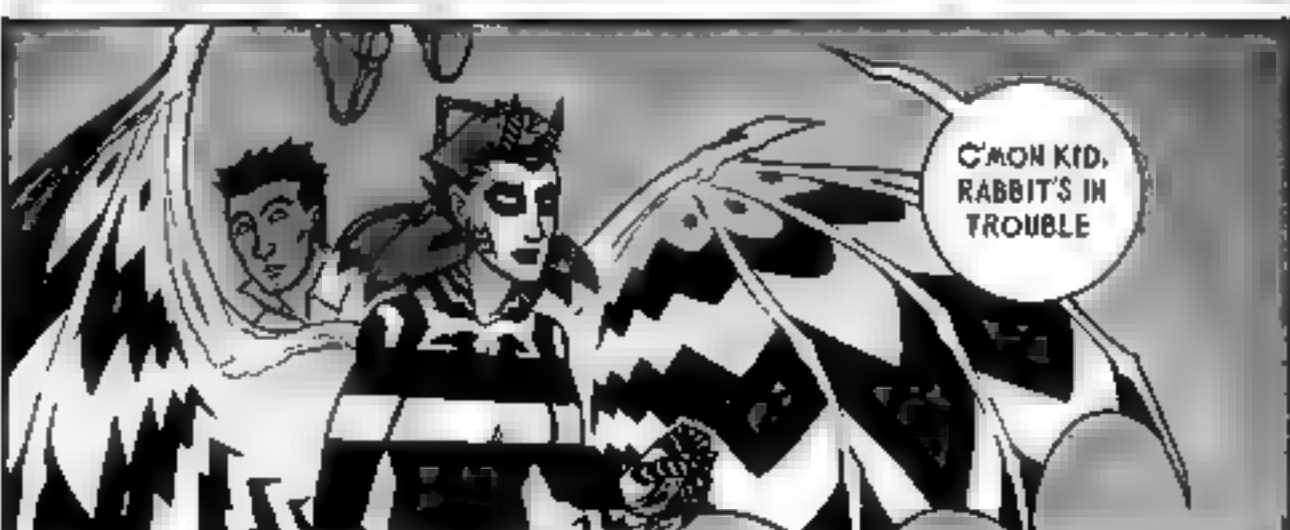


BOTH OF
YOU OUT
NOW.

HUH?
OH, YES
MAAM.



C'MON KID,
RABBIT'S IN
TROUBLE



HER NAME'S
MARY WE MET
ONLINE

SHE'S

YEAH
JACK
DID IT

OH
PURPOSE?

HA, YEAH.
IT WAS HER IDEA!
I OFFERED TO TRY
BEING HUMAN INSTEAD,
BUT SHE WOULDN'T HAVE IT
SO JACK AND ME AND HER
MET IN A FIELD AND WE HAD A
BIG CEREMONY TO MAKE THE
MAGIC STICK TO HER. AND...
IT'S BEEN THE TWO OF
US NOW FOR ABOUT
A YEAR

SO SHE
CHOSE TO
STAY THAT WAY?


AND YOU'RE NOT...
HIDING?

WE GOT
NOTHING TO
HIDE

SOMETIMES
PEOPLE FLIP OUT
A LITTLE AROUND
US, BUT SHE GETS A
KICK OUT OF IT SHE'S
EVEN GOT A VIDEO
CHANNEL SET UP

THE
TRICK IS JUST
TO DOWNPLAY IT
FOLKS TEND TO STAY
CALM IF YOU GO
ABOUT YOUR
BUSINESS.


THAT'S HOW
YOU GET
AWAY WITH
MURDER



HM. SHE'S
EVEN WEARING
GLOVES LIKE
YOURS.


YEAH. SHE
CONVERTED WELL,
SAYS SHE CONVERTED. I
THINK SHE JUST WANTS AN
EXCUSE TO WEAR THEM.
WHICH IS FINE BY ME.
I'M NOT DEVOUT OR
ANYTHING.

"DEVOUT?"




THESE
GLOVES. WITH
THE THREE LINES?
IT'S A RELIGIOUS THING.
OUR SAINT JIMINY WAS
HUNG BY HIS HANDS. THE
MARKS REPRESENT HIS
WOUNDS.

I NEVER
TOLD YOU
THAT? 'CAUSE
AS I RECALL
WE WERE
CLOSE




I REALLY
DID SCREW
IT ALL UP
DIDN'T I?



WELL IT'S A
NEW SCENE NOW
YOU'RE HEAD OF THE
MONSTER'S GUILD. YOU
FINALLY CHANGED YOUR
CLOTHES. YOU'RE NOT INSANE
ANYMORE, I GUESS... AND
APPARENTLY YOU TURNED
OUR HOUSE INTO A NUTTY
FORTRESS, THAT'S
A HELL OF
A TRICK.

INCIDENTALLY
WHERE'S MY ROOM
IN ALL THIS MESS?



DON'T LOOK AT
ME I DIDN'T DO THIS!
ALL I KNOW IS THAT
WHATEVER'S CAUSING
IT SEEMS TO WANT TO
ACCOMMODATE
ME

BUT THE
INTERIOR ISN'T AS
BIG AS IT LOOKS..
NOT YET ANYWAY
IT'S LIKE A MAGIC POWER
PLANT IN HERE ILLUSIONS
ARE CRAWLING UP
THE WALLS!

I'LL FIGURE
IT OUT BUT IT'S A
SLOW QUANDARY
RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT
MORE URGENT
ISSUES

LIKE THE
VAMPIRES?
WOAH..!

AH, THAT'S..
THAT'S A
STORY


DID YOU
KNOW THERE ARE
DIFFERENT KINDS?
MOROI. STRIGOI. WEREWOLF
PERMUTATIONS.. "VARGOLAC."
BORS HAS BEEN TEACHING ME,
HE'S THE LOCAL ELDER. AND
HIS PARTICULAR BRANCH OF
VAMPIRISM DISPROVES THE
CLICHE OF SLEEPING
DURING THE DAY ..

IN FACT, THEY
DON'T SLEEP AT ALL
INSTEAD THEY FADE OUT OF
SIGHT, HOPELESS OR ACTIVELY
LOSING THEIR MINDS, TRAPPED
INSIDE THE WAKING WORLD.
THEY HAD IT PRETTY HARD
UNTIL THEY TASTED
MY BLOOD

WHICH, AS
IT TURNS OUT IS
SO POTENT THAT IT
PUTS THEM OUT LIKE
A LIGHT SOME OF THESE
GUYS ARE RESTING FOR
THE FIRST TIME IN
DECADES.

I'M ON A
BIT OF A
PEDESTAL.


SO YOU'VE
GOT THEM...
WHAT?
TRAINED?




YOU GOING
TO MAKE IT
SO THEY'RE NOT
DANGEROUS? JUST
REGULAR FOLKS
WITH FANGS?



NO.



I TRIED
SUPPRESSING MY
INSTINCTS ONCE THEN
I SUPPRESSED MY HUMANITY
NOW ONE OF THE GREATEST
THINGS I'VE LEARNED IS THAT
SUPPRESSION ISN'T THE
ANSWER. NOT FOR THE
LIKES OF US.




SANDRA, GET TO
THE POINT ALL THIS...
YOU'RE TALKING LIKE
YOU'RE SELLING
SOMETHING

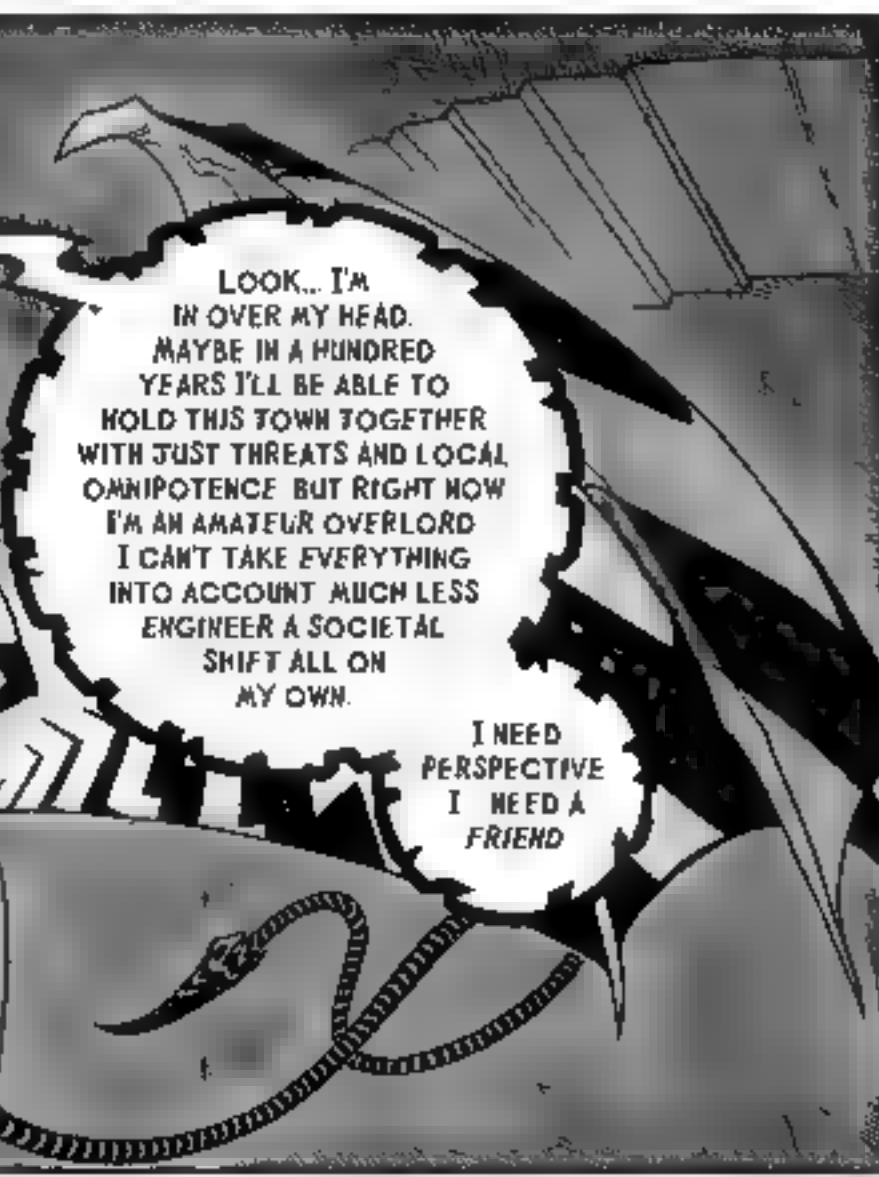


OH, SORRY
SORRY... YOU'RE
RIGHT, I THINK I'VE
TURNED INTO SOME
KIND OF POLITICIAN.
I JUST NEED YOU TO
UNDERSTAND WHAT
I'M HOPING
TO DO...

I HAVE
TO HAVE
HELP




FROM ME?
WHY, WHAT
CAN I DO?



LOOK... I'M
IN OVER MY HEAD.
MAYBE IN A HUNDRED
YEARS I'LL BE ABLE TO
HOLD THIS TOWN TOGETHER
WITH JUST THREATS AND LOCAL
OMNIPOTENCE BUT RIGHT NOW
I'M AN AMATEUR OVERLORD
I CAN'T TAKE EVERYTHING
INTO ACCOUNT MUCH LESS
ENGINEER A SOCIETAL
SHIFT ALL ON
MY OWN.


I NEED
PERSPECTIVE
I NEED A
FRIEND

A black and white comic panel showing Sam, a rabbit-like character with long ears, looking towards Becky. Becky is a character with a horned headpiece and a dark, patterned outfit, looking back at Sam.

ARE WE FRIENDS? I REMEMBER A LOT OF SCREAMING TO THE CONTRARY

I WAS A CHILD THROWING A TANTRUM. IT'S OUT OF MY SYSTEM NOW, I'LL WELCOME ANYONE WHO CAN HELP TO KEEP ME STEADY

NOT TO MENTION THAT BEING ALONE ON A PEDESTAL MAKES YOU AN EASY TARGET

A black and white comic panel showing Sam and Becky in a hallway. Sam is on the left, looking towards Becky, who is on the right, looking back at Sam.

TRUE THERE'S AS MUCH FEAR AS LOYALTY AROUND HERE, BUT I'D NEVER LET THEM HURT YOU.

YEAH? WHERE WERE YOU EARLIER TONIGHT WHEN THEY JUMPED CRYSTAL?

A black and white comic panel showing a close-up of Becky. She has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the side.

THAT IT SHOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED. I'M MOSTLY AWARE OF ANYTHING THAT DEMANDS MY ATTENTION, BUT ..


I WAS DISTRACTED.

A black and white comic panel showing Sam and Becky. Sam is on the left, looking towards Becky, who is on the right, looking back at Sam.

BAD TIMING

YES.. VERY BUT THAT'S WHAT I MEAN, SAM. I'M MAKING MISTAKES.. THAT WAS JUST ONE. AND IT ALMOST COST

BUT YOU TOLD US TO.

A black and white comic panel showing a close-up of Becky. She has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the side.

OH ARE YOU PART OF THIS CONVERSATION NOW BECKY?

BECAUSE I PROMISED
MYSELF THAT I'D GET
MAD AT YOU GUYS LATER.
AND I THINK "LATER" CAN BE NOW
OR WOULD YOU RATHER PUT IT
OFF WHILE I FINISH MY
PRIVATE
CONVERSATION?

SORRY!
SORRY! I
KNOW WE'RE IN
THE DOG HOUSE. BUT..
WE WERE JUST
FOLLOWING
ORDERS!

WHAT
ORDERS?

NO
ORDERS!

SHE DOESN'T
KNOW WHAT SHE'S
TALKING ABOUT
BECKY YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT

ALL I KNOW IS
WE TRIED OUR BEST!
AND, UM, I THINK WE
DESERVE A LITTLE CREDIT
JERRY AND DARYL ARE
FREAKING OUT THEY
THINK YOU'RE GOING
TO KILL THEM.

YOU'RE
NOT, ARE
YOU?

HEY
YOU SAY SHE
GAVE ORDERS
TO ATTACK
PEOPLE?

SURE
WE'RE GONNA
ATTACK EVERYBODY
WHEN THE REIGN
OF TERROR
STARTS!

NO WE--
BECKY!
SHUT UP!

"REIGN OF
TERROR"

I..

THAT'S
NOT AS
BAD AS IT
SOUNDS.



OKAY..
EXPLAIN IT
TO ME



WHAP!

DARYL!



YOU
WANTED ME TO
DO THAT, RIGHT?
HE HEARD TOO
MUCH!

SAM!!
GOD, GET A
DOCTOR!



HE'S FINE.
HE'S JUST
UNCONSCIOUS!

IDIOT YOU'VE
GOT VAMPIRE
STRENGTH! HE'S
NOT SUPERNATURAL,
HE MAY HAVE
CONCUSSION!



OH. WELL..
YEAH, I'LL GO
KIDNAP A
DOCTOR

HO, DON'T
KIDNAP A--
URRH. NEVERMIND
I'LL TAKE HIM
SOMEWHERE!



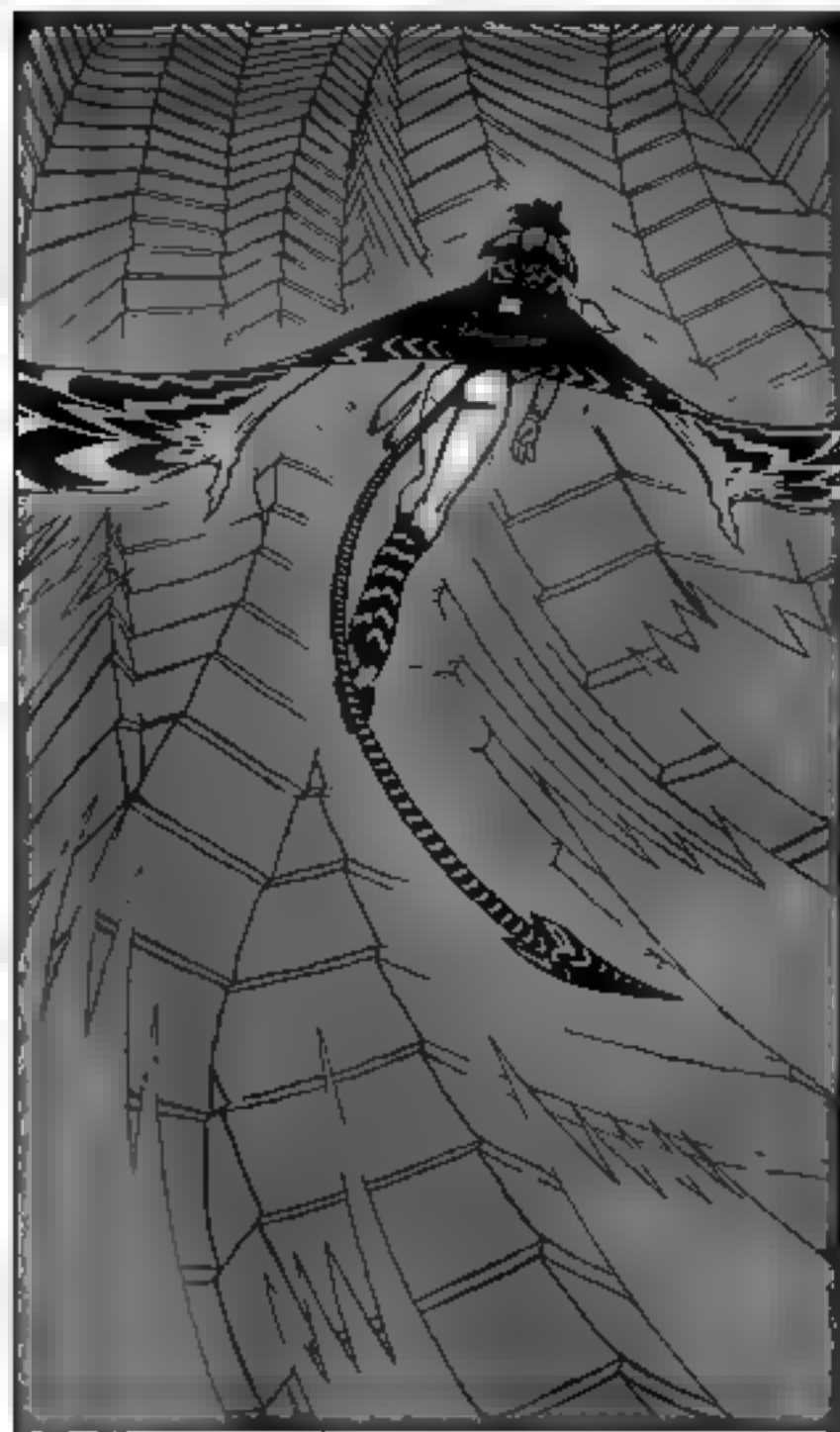
YOU
KNOW, YOU'RE
BOTH LUCKY THAT
ONLY HUMANS COMBUST
WHEN I'M ANGRY AS IT
IS. I'LL HAVE TO ACTIVELY
DECIDE TO BURN YOU WITH
MY TERRIBLE FIRE BREATH,
AND I'M CURRENTLY NOT
CERTAIN YOU'RE
WORTH THE
EFFORT

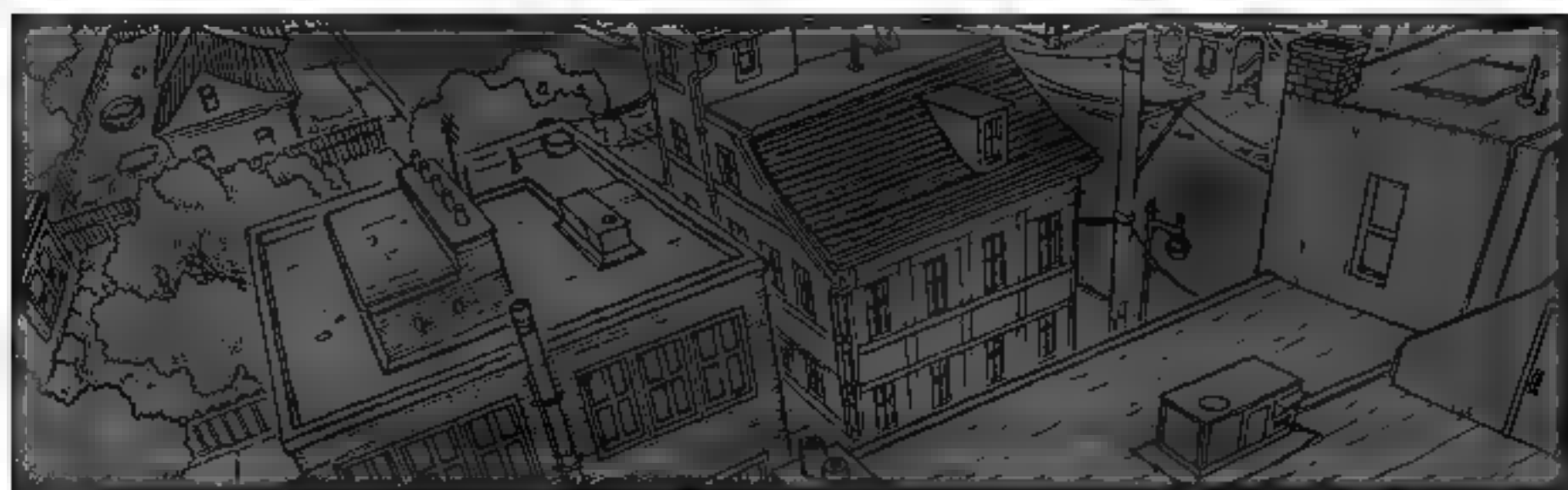
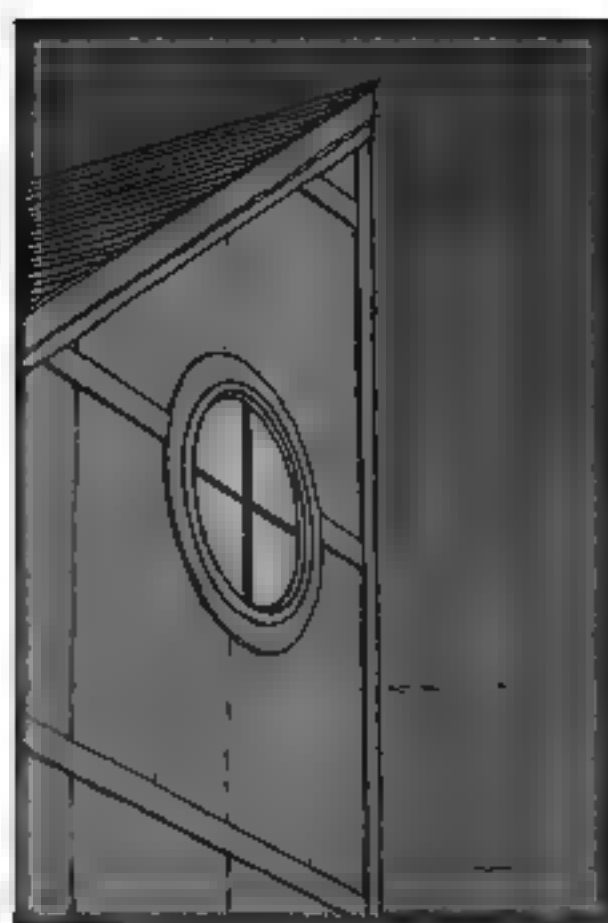
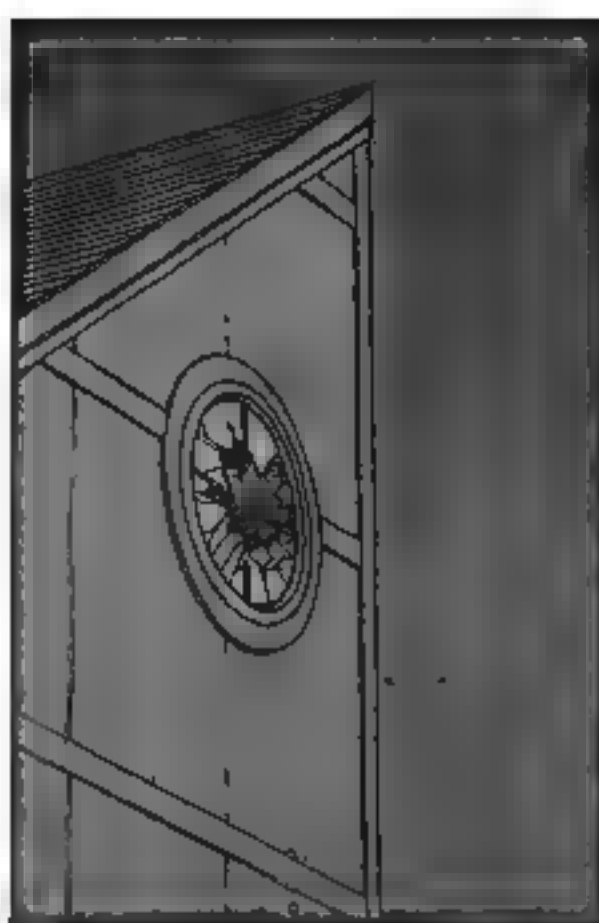
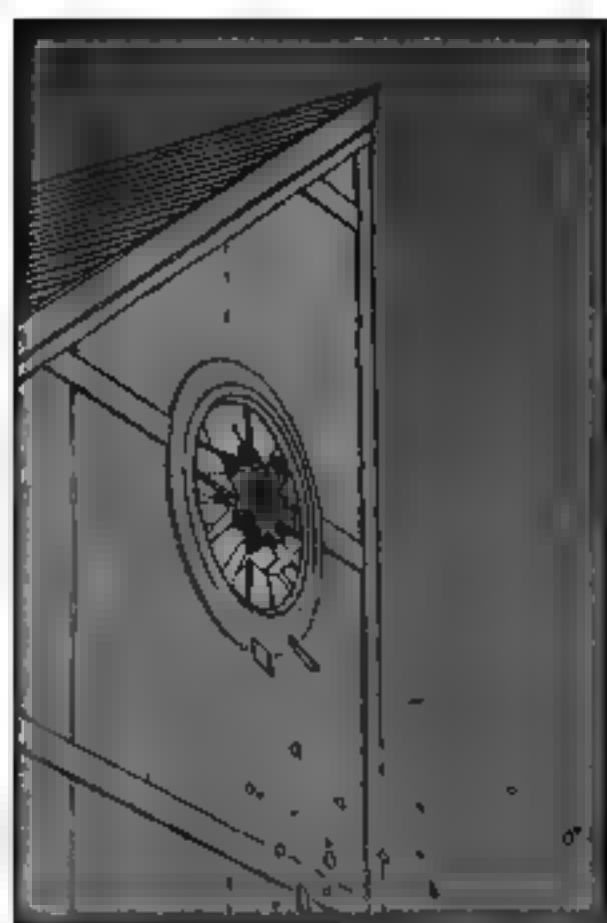
ROLAND'S
IN CHARGE
WHILE I'M
GONE!

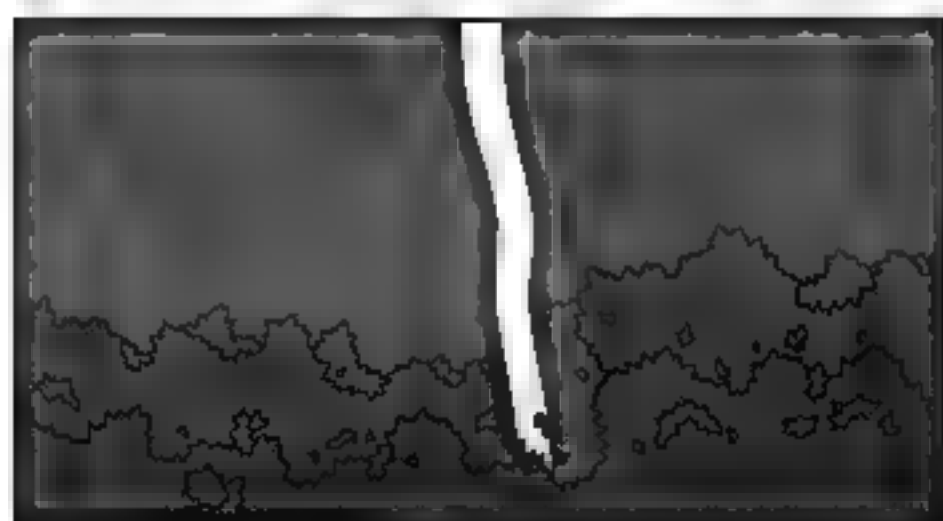


OKAY
I'M SORRY
WE'RE
SORRY

WE
WERE JUST
TRYING TO
HELP





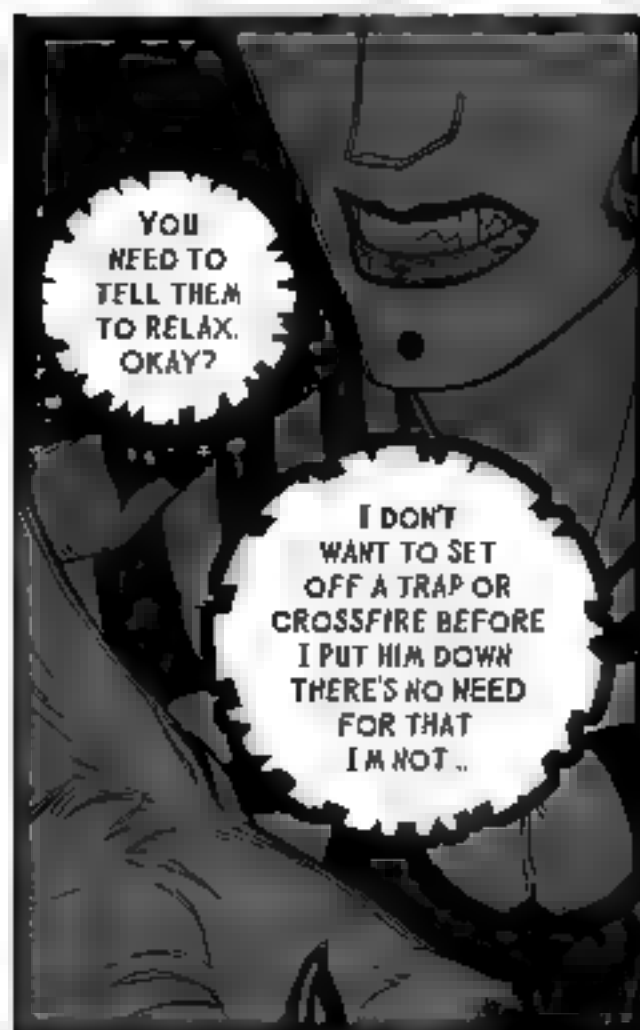




CRYSTAL
IT WON'T
WORK



WHATEVER THIS
IS BUT DON'T
DON'T WORRY I
WON'T HURT YOU.
I'VE GOT SAM, HE
NEEDS HELP



YOU
NEED TO
TELL THEM
TO RELAX.
OKAY?

I DON'T
WANT TO SET
OFF A TRAP OR
CROSSFIRE BEFORE
I PUT HIM DOWN
THERE'S NO NEED
FOR THAT
I'M NOT..



I..
CRYSTAL, IT'S
BEEN SO LONG. AND
I DIDN'T WANT US TO
MEET AGAIN UNTIL
GOD, I DON'T KNOW
NOT LIKE THIS.

PLEASE
JUST BELIEVE
ME I WANT TO MAKE
EVERYTHING RIGHT
AGAIN WITH YOU.
WITH US

I
MISS
YOU.



..YOU
DON'T GET
TO TALK TO
ME LIKE THAT
ANYMORE



GUYS!
GUYS SHE'S
HERE!!
SHE'S !?

SHE'S
SOMEWHERE!

WHARF!

JACK!
BRING HER
DOWN!

HOO! DEEP
BREATH ..

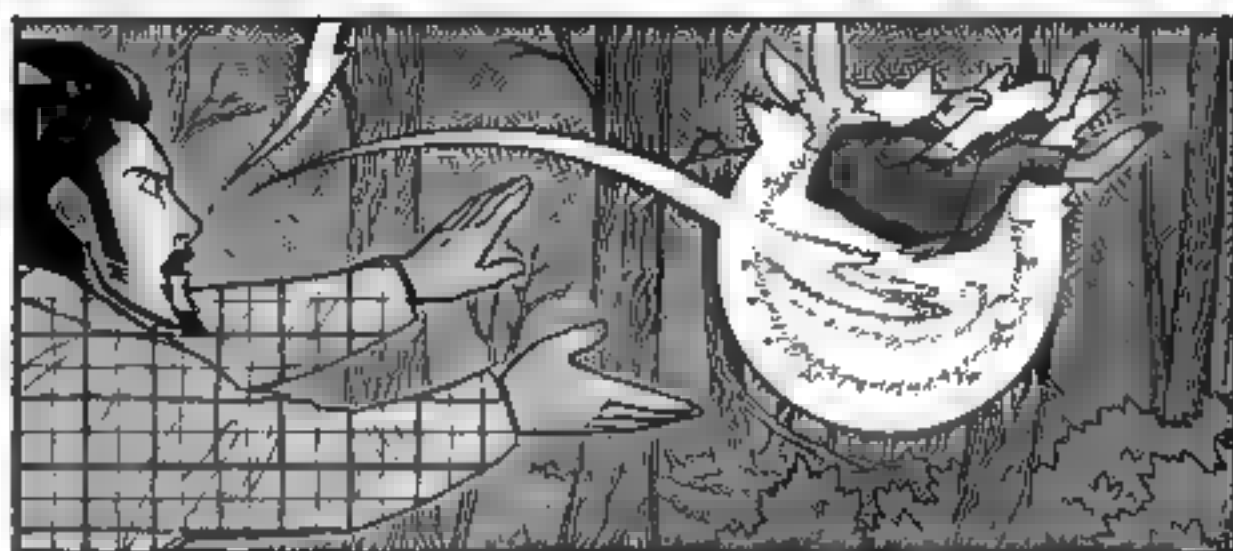
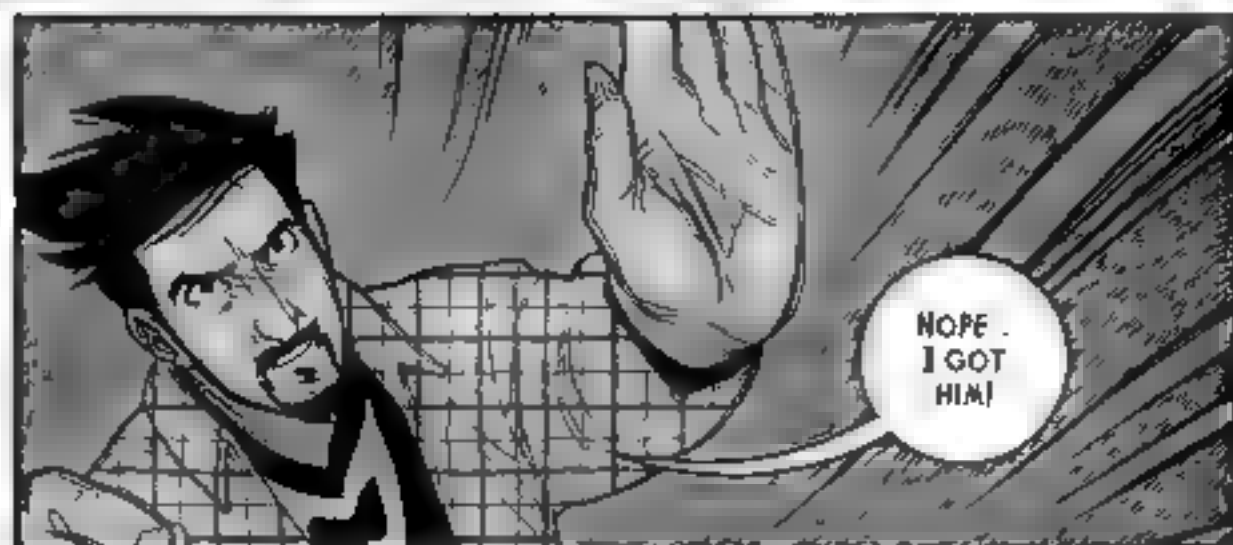
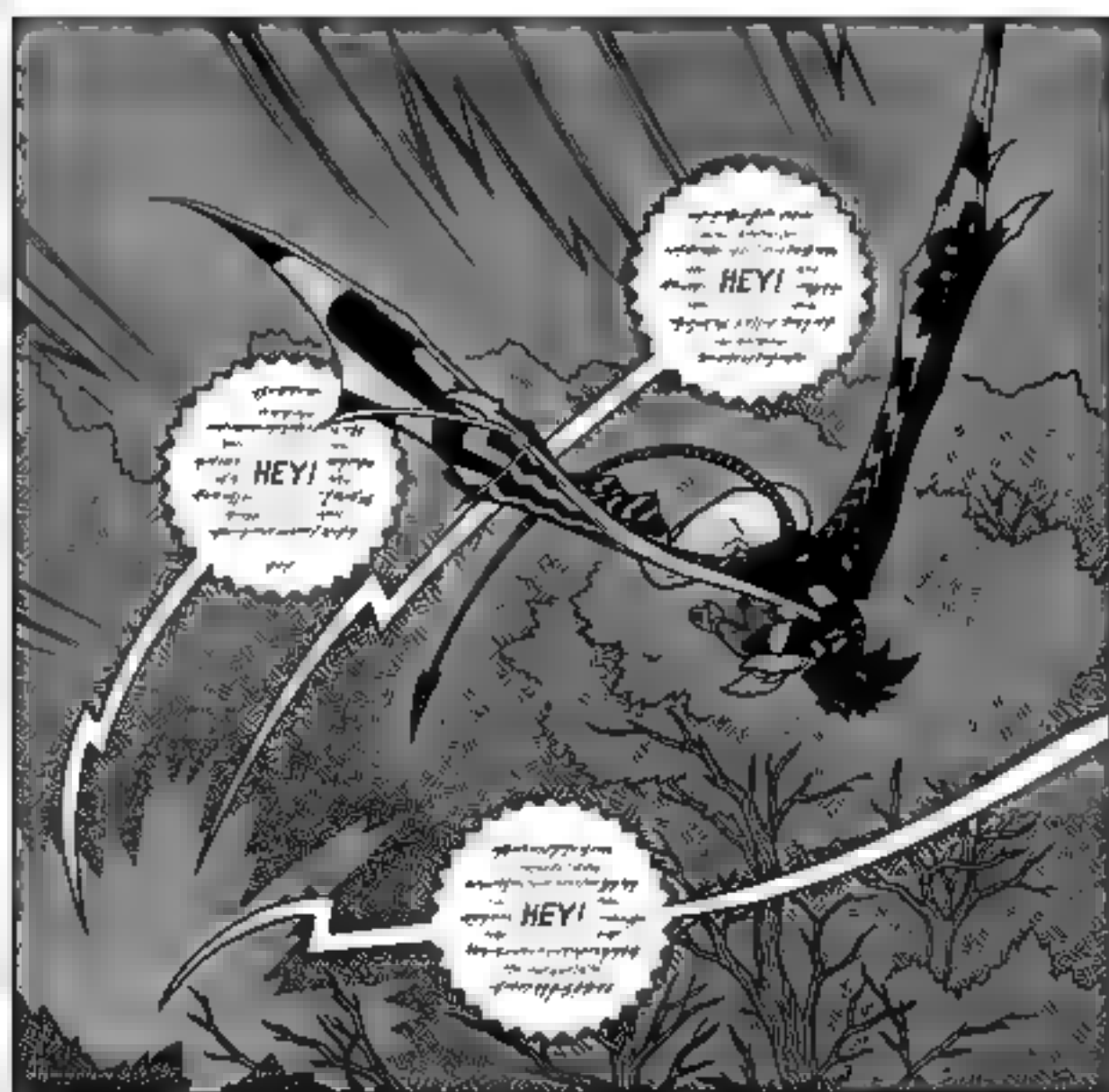
CRYST

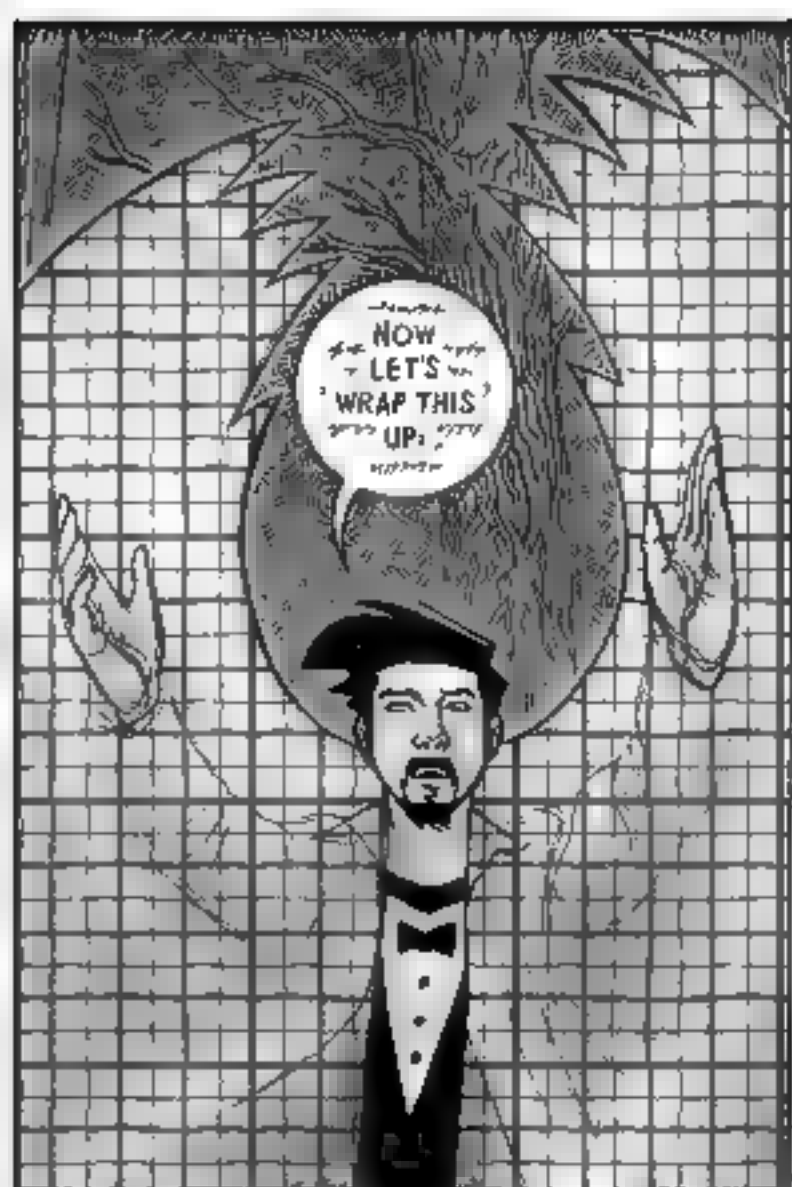
THERE
SHE IS!

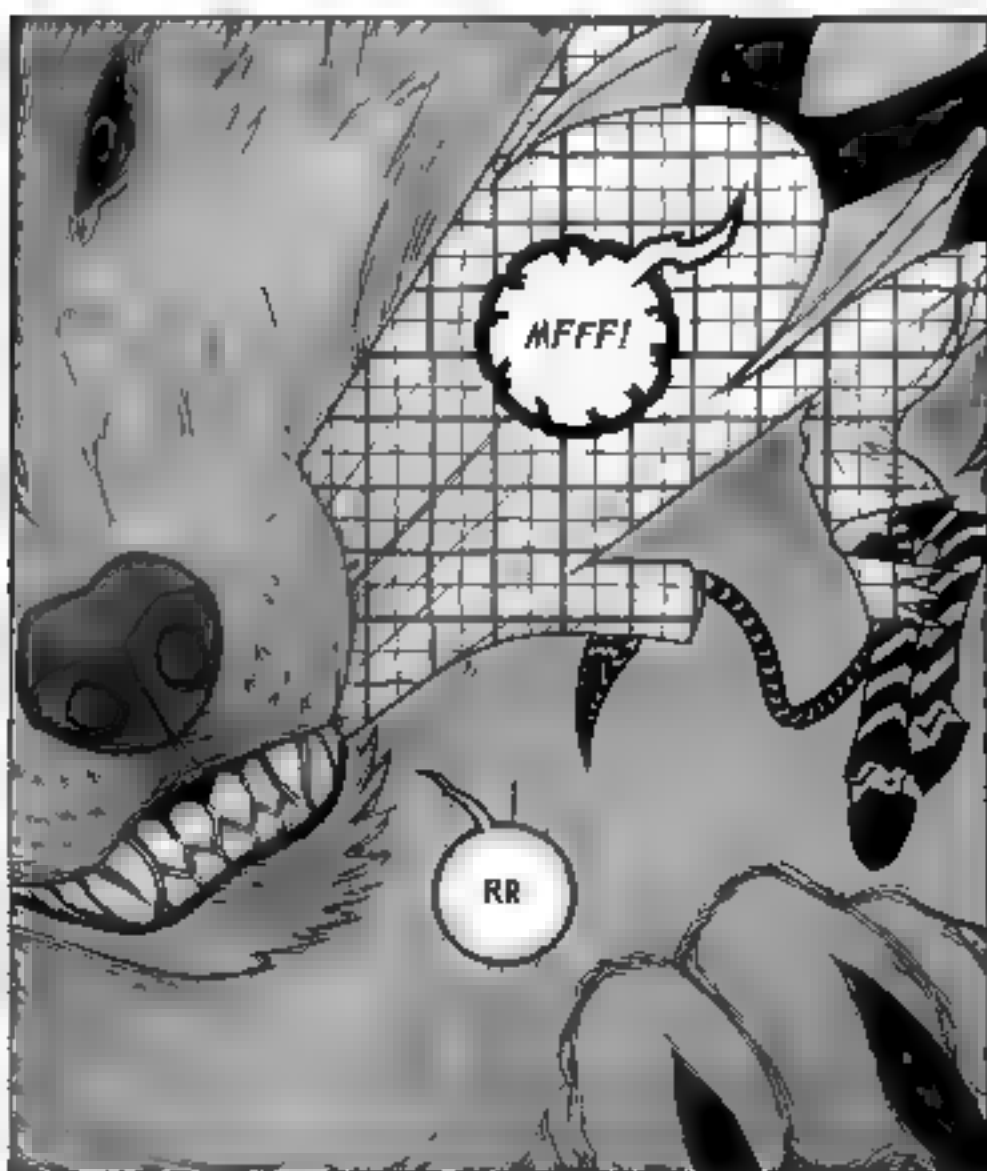
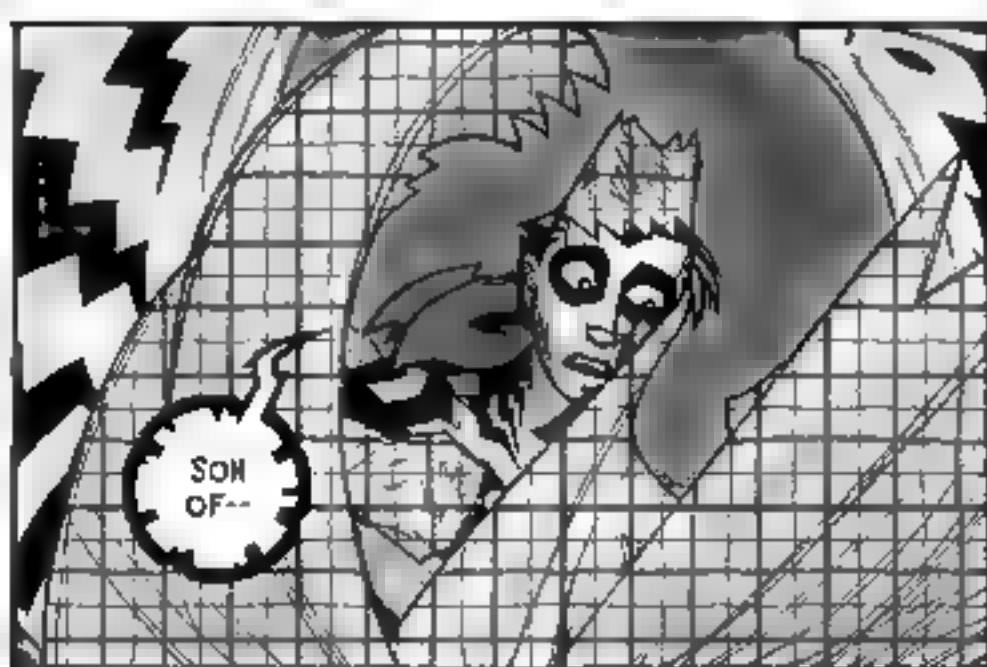
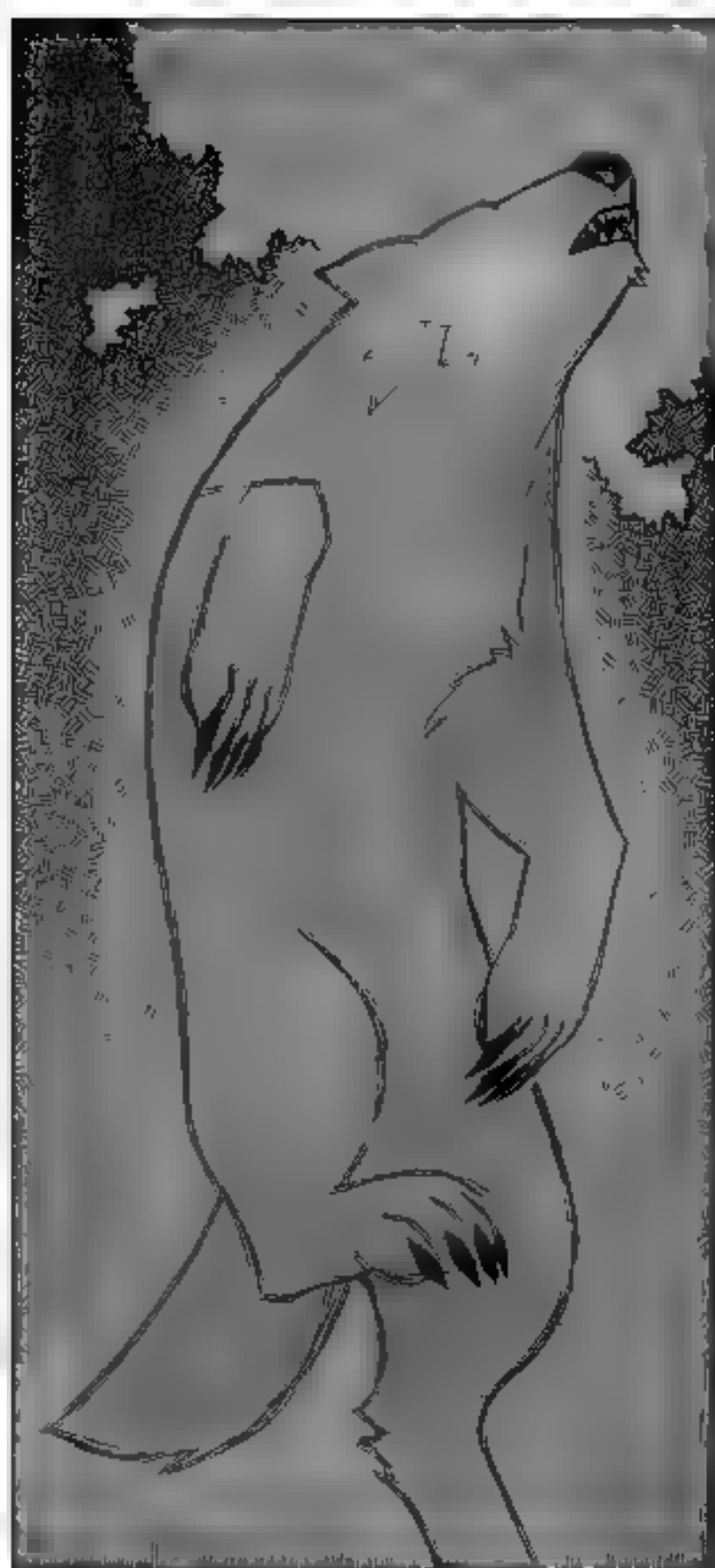
GOTCHAI!

UH, WAIT
OH..

SHAP!!





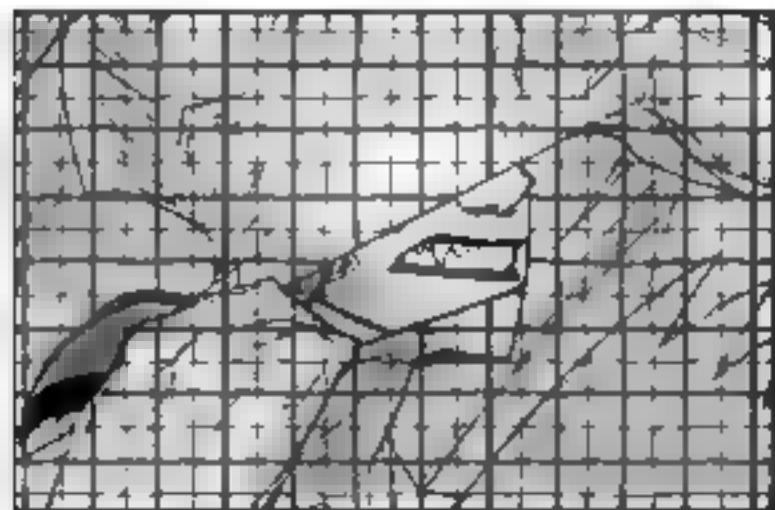


I BET
I KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE THINKING,
SANDRA. THAT IT
WON'T WORK.
I CAN'T TRAP
YOU.

BUT THIS ISN'T
LIKE LAST TIME!
I COULDN'T PUT YOU
INTO WORDS BACK THEN.
THE WORLD HAD TO
GROW NEW RULES!

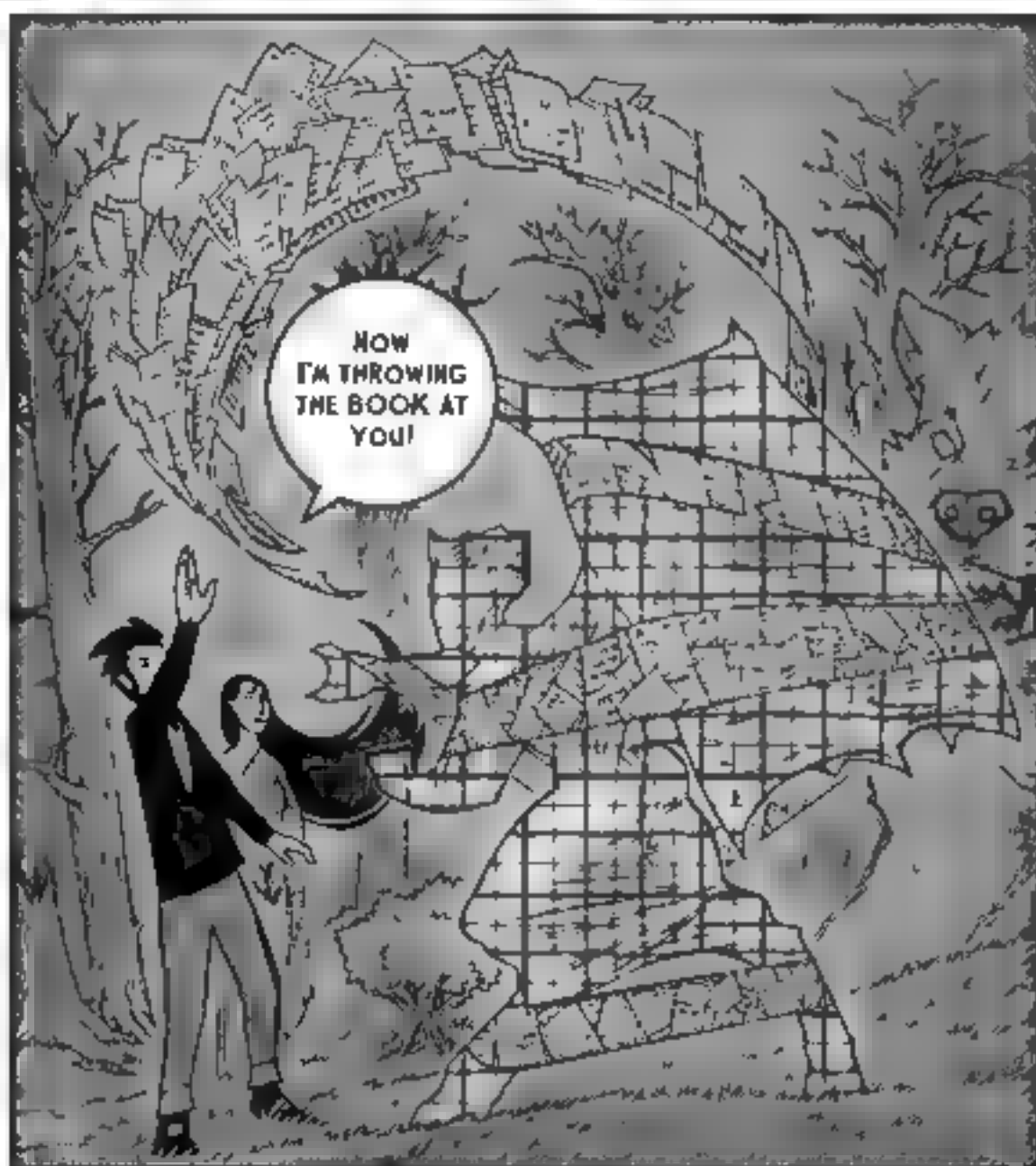
AND IT
DID

I SPENT
YEARS WITH MY
EAR TO THE GROUND
BEFORE I HEARD IT.
THE WORD THAT
DESCRIBES
YOU.



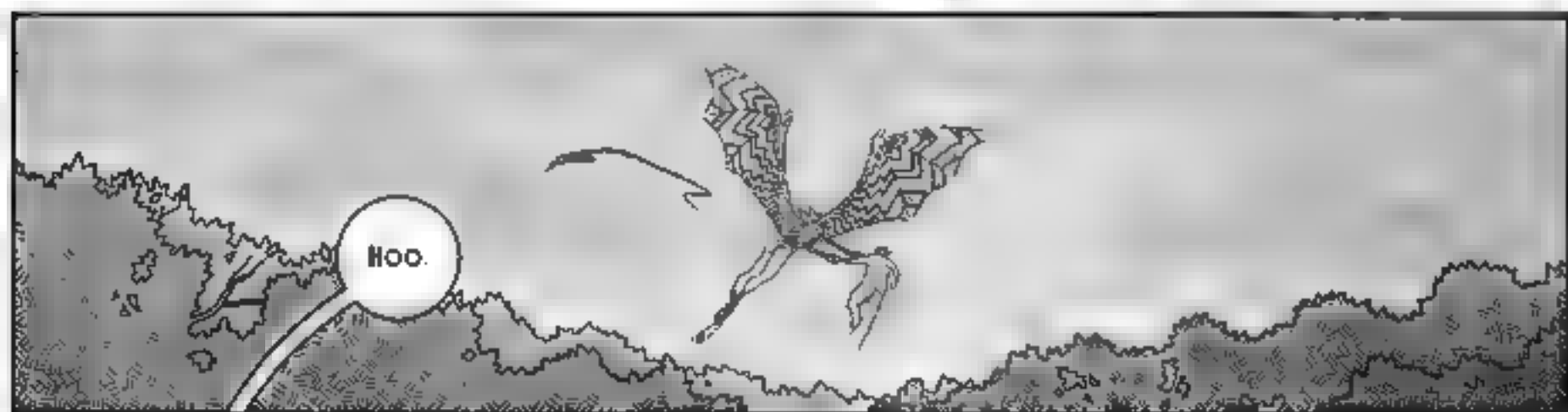
NOW
I'M THROWING
THE BOOK AT
YOU!

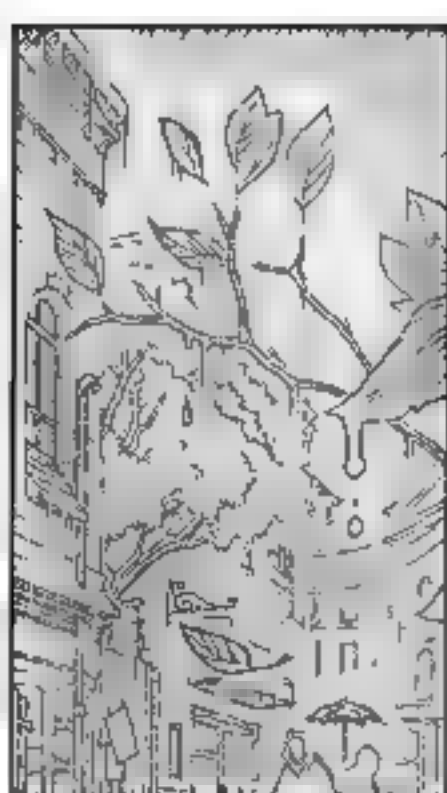
NOW IT'S
WRITTEN.







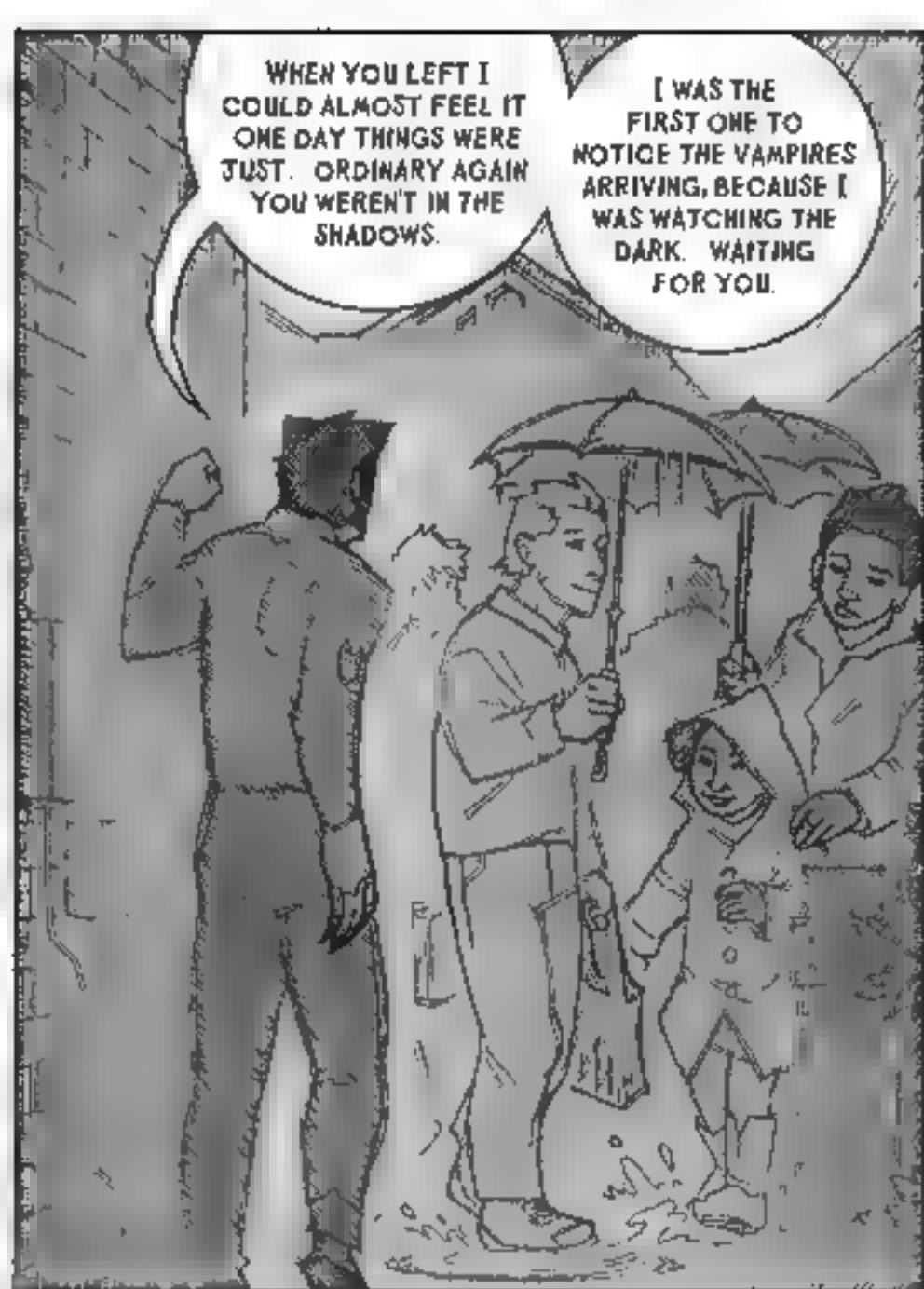






NAH. HE
MISSES YOU.
EVERYONE MISSES
YOU. EVEN IF THEY
WON'T ADMIT IT
I KNOW I
DID

YOU'RE
THE LIFE
OF THIS
TOWN.



WHEN YOU LEFT I
COULD ALMOST FEEL IT
ONE DAY THINGS WERE
JUST. ORDINARY AGAIN
YOU WEREN'T IN THE
SHADOWS.

I WAS THE
FIRST ONE TO
NOTICE THE VAMPIRES
ARRIVING, BECAUSE I
WAS WATCHING THE
DARK. WAITING
FOR YOU.



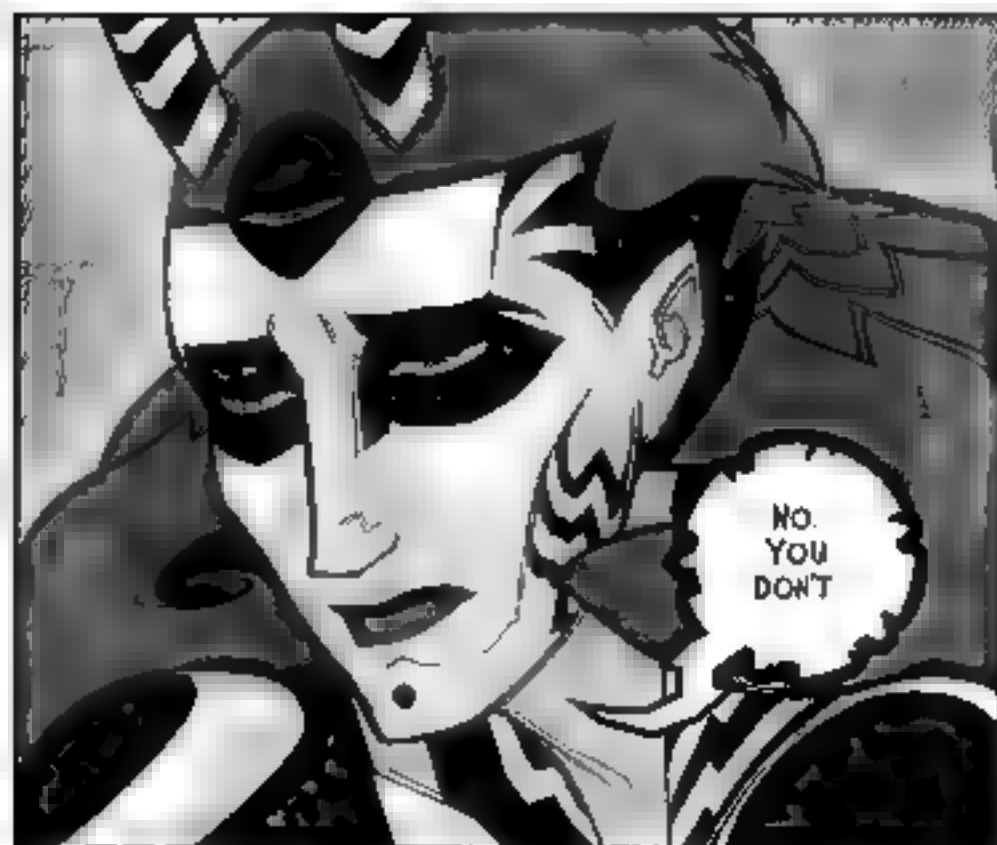
AND I
LET THEM
TAKE ME BECAUSE
I MISSED YOU THAT MUCH.
I HAD TO CRAWL INTO THE
SHADOWS TO FIND YOU.
AND NOW HERE
WE ARE

AND I HAVE
TO WONDER...
WHY DO WE CARE
SO MUCH ABOUT THE
PEOPLE WHO MISS US,
AND AREN'T WILLING
TO DO ANYTHING
TO REACH US?

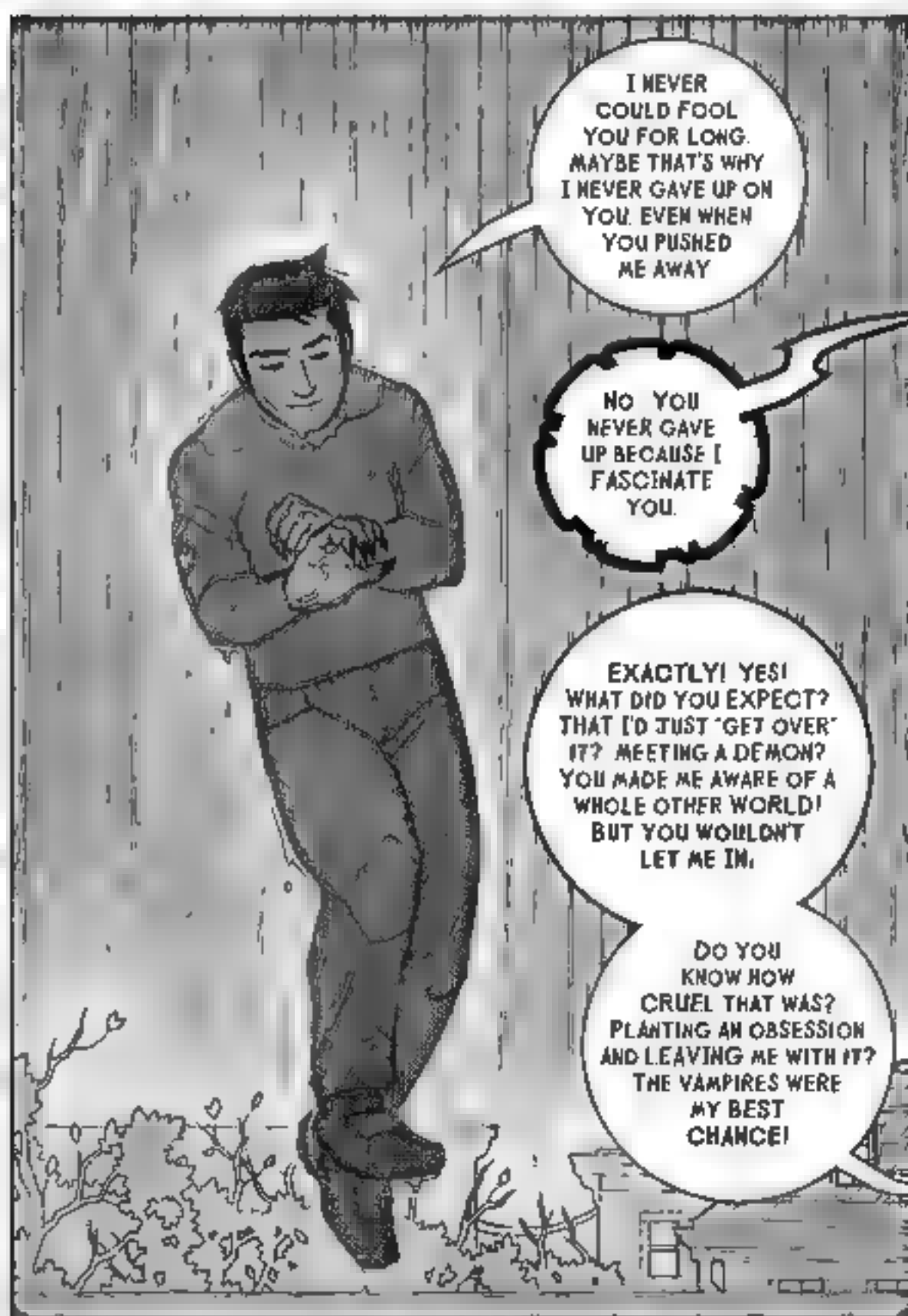
EVERYBODY
IN TOWN LOVES
YOU ONE WAY OR
ANOTHER ZANDRA.
THAT'S NOT THE
ISSUE.

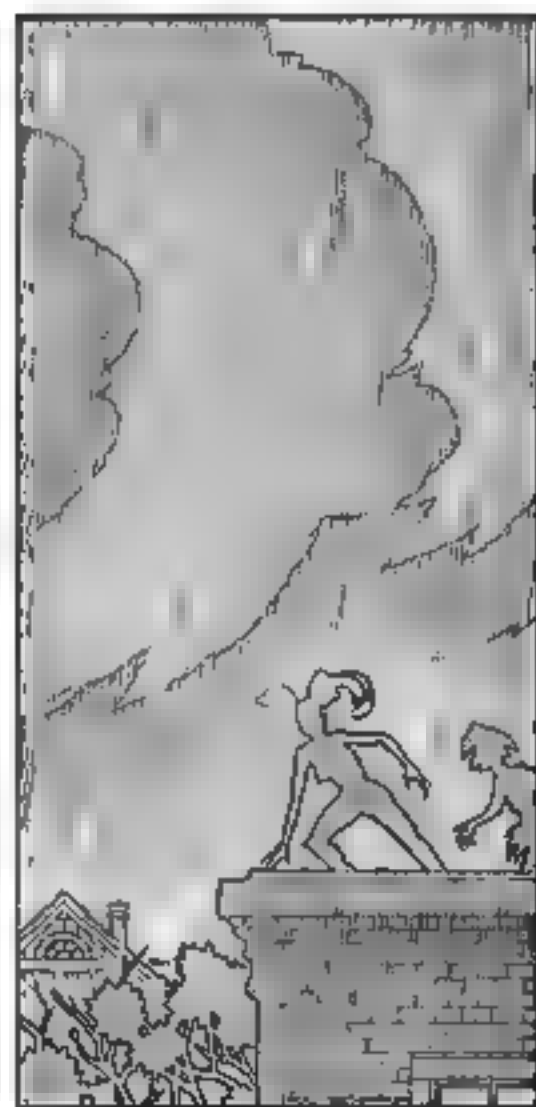
THE ISSUE
IS FINDING
PEOPLE WILLING
TO LOVE YOU
UP CLOSE













HHHHHGH.
MARY.

Y'KNOW
THAT DRIVES
ME WILD..

KIRKY

UH..

SORRY SHE'S
VERY TACTILE.
LOVES SOFT THINGS.
AND SHE ASKED, SO...
I DIDN'T THINK
YOU'D MIND

BUT JUST RELAX,
WE'RE SAFE IN THE CABIN
BETWEEN CRYSTAL'S FIRST
AID AND A LITTLE DIVINATION IT
LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL BE FINE
PHYSICALLY, I MEAN.. I DON'T
KNOW WHAT "ZANDRA" DID
TO YOU, BUT AT LEAST
WE MANAGED TO
CHASE HER OFF

THOUGH I'M
KIND OF AT A
LOSS.. YOU
FEEL UP TO
TALKING,
SAM?

WHAT'S
THE LAST
THING YOU
REMEMBER?

"REIGN OF
TERROR."

IT SOUNDED BAD
THE WAY HE PUT IT
THOUGH. I GUESS
THERE'S NO WAY THAT
"REIGN OF TERROR"
SOUNDS GOOD



YEAH. HE
TOLD ME HE
MIGHT'VE MISHEARD,
BUT I DON'T THINK YOU
CAN HEAR IT ANY OTHER
WAY. ZANDRA AND HER
VAMPIRE ARMY ARE
GONNA TAKE OVER
THE TOWN!



I THINK SAM'S
TRYING TO MAKE
EXCUSES FOR HER.
NOT THAT I BLAME HIM.
NOT AT ALL! I KNOW
HOW HE FEELS.

BUT YOU
WERE RIGHT,
WALLY. SHE'S NOT
OUR FRIEND ANYMORE.
SHE'S NOTHING
BUT TROUBLE!

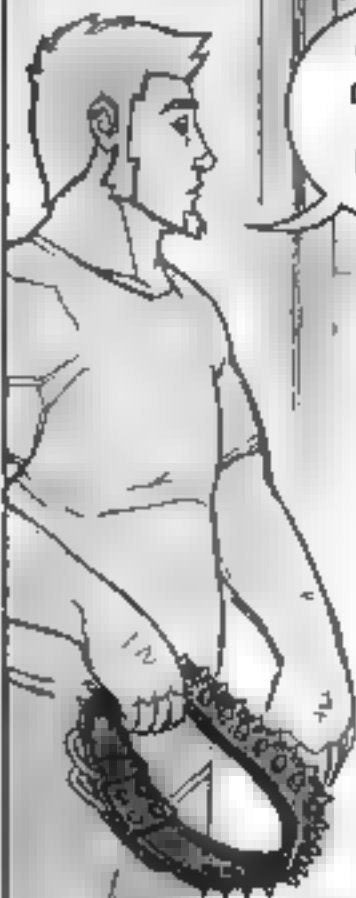


AND IT'S
UP TO US TO
TAKE CARE OF HER!
AND THIS TIME I DON'T
MEAN IT IN AN HONEST
NURTURING WAY!
I MEAN IT IN THE
TOUGH WAY!



READY
TO BE MY
BATTLE BEAST,
HONEY?

WE'RE
DOING
THIS
NOW?



NO! BUT
WE GOTTA MAKE
SURE EVERYTHING
FITS BEFORE WE GO
TO WAR. RIGHT?
SAME AS THE
CONTESTS!





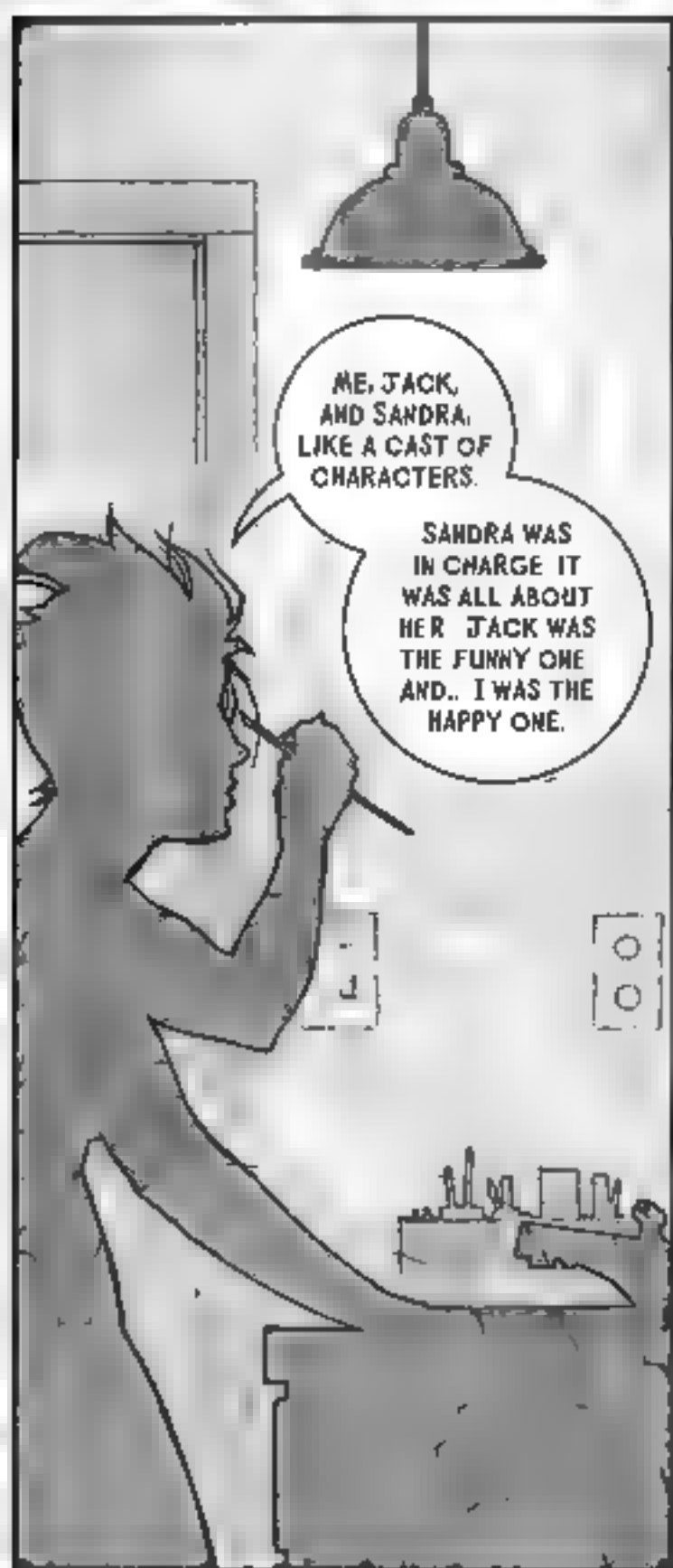
YEAH ..
THIS IS OUR
BECOMING



"BECOMING?"



Y'KNOW, WHEN I
WAS LITTLE I USED
TO THINK WE WERE
IN KIND OF A
CARTOON



ME, JACK,
AND SANDRA,
LIKE A CAST OF
CHARACTERS.

SANDRA WAS
IN CHARGE IT
WAS ALL ABOUT
HER JACK WAS
THE FUNNY ONE
AND.. I WAS THE
HAPPY ONE.



NOW IT'S
LIKE I'M EMERGING
INTO A DARKER WORLD.
ONE THAT'S NO PLACE
FOR A LITTLE GIRL.
IT NEVER WILL
BE WHILE SHE'S
IN CHARGE

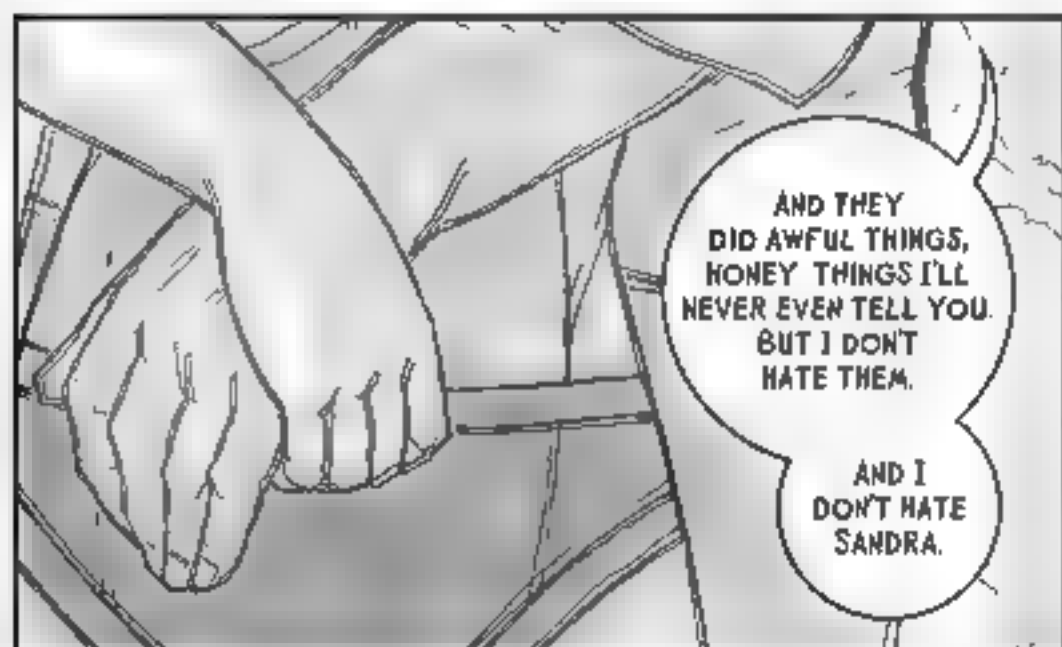


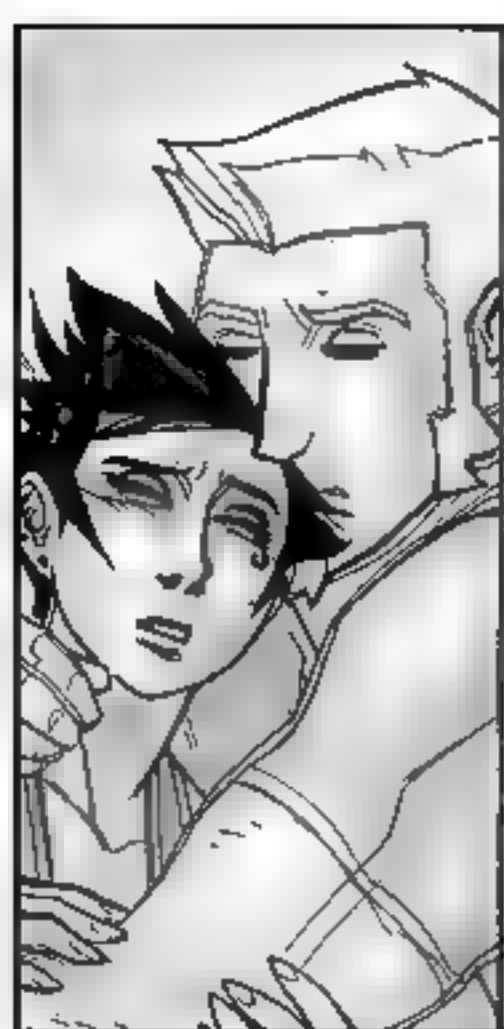
I'M SICK
OF LETTING IT
REVOLVE AROUND
HER. I'M SICK OF HER.
OF WASTING MY
FEELINGS
ON HER



I'M THE ONLY
ONE OF US WHO
NEVER REALLY
CHANGED...

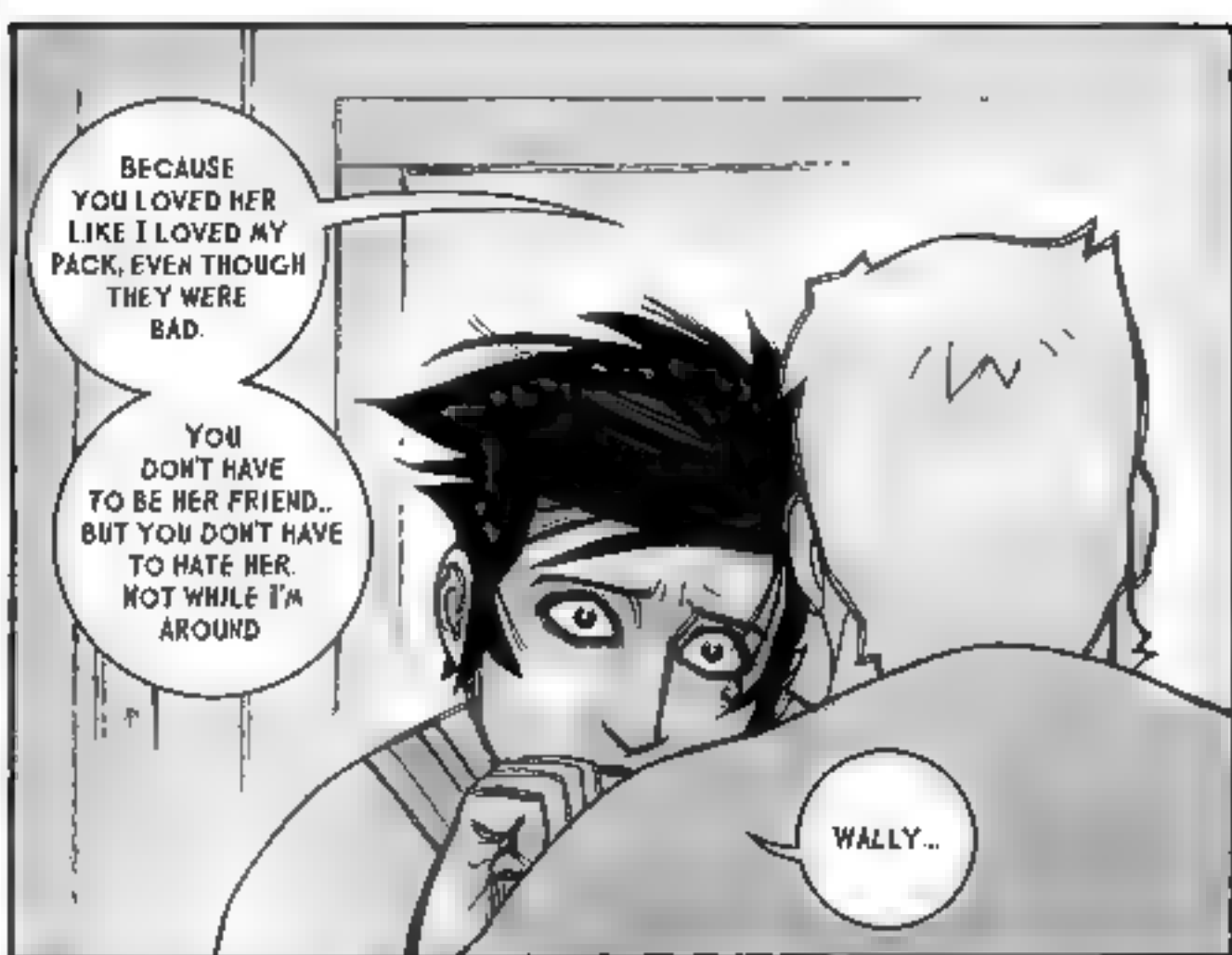
IT'S TIME
I BECAME
SOMETHING
ELSE





BECAUSE
YOU LOVED HER
LIKE I LOVED MY
PACK, EVEN THOUGH
THEY WERE
BAD.

YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO BE HER FRIEND..
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE
TO HATE HER.
NOT WHILE I'M
AROUND



WALLY..



HEY ARE
YOU TWO ALMOST
DONE SINGING THE
SOAP OPERA IN HERE?
SOME OF US NEED
THE BATHROOM.



SAM,
BE HONEST
WHAT WAS YOUR
IMPRESSION OF
SANDRA LAST
NIGHT?



HMM.

HONESTLY, I
DON'T KNOW WHAT
TO THINK. IT'S LIKE
SHE'S HALF AN OLD FRIEND,
HALF A CARTOON VILLAIN.
AND I'M NOT SURE I TRUST
MY INSTINCTS
ANYMORE

BUT I'M
FAIRLY
CERTAIN SHE'S
IN OVER HER
HORNS.

CLINK

CLINK

CLINK

I MAKE
CHAINS.


THAT IS
THE SUM AND
TOTAL OF ME
YOU ASK MY NAME?
I HAVEN'T ONE I AM
TOLD IN NO STORY
BUT MY WORK IS
CELEBRATED

'T WAS I WHOM
CERTAIN GODS
COMMISSIONED TO
SUPERVISE THE MAKING
OF FENRIR'S SILKEN LEASH,
AND 'T WAS I WOVE THE
ENTRAILS WHICH
FASTENED LOKI
TO HIS ROCK.

I WAS
APPRENTICE TO
HEPHAESTUS, COLLEAGUE
TO DAEDALUS, AND MY
FETTERS HAVE STRANGLED SOME
LEGENDS SO THOROUGHLY
THAT THEY NO LONGER
ARE TOLD AT ALL -
SUCH AM I.

COOL
COOL SOUNDS
LEGIT YOU
TAKE CASH?

YES



GUESS HE
WASNT ONE OF
THE LOYAL ONES.
MONEY MONEY
MONEY, HONEY!
SHOULDN'TA KEPT
HIM WAITING IN
THE FOYER


GUY
WORKS FAST
TOO.. I EVEN HAD
HIM PERSONALIZE
THE LINKS. SEE?
"NEFASTISI"



YEAH, I WAS
LISTENING
AT THE DOOR
HEARD YOU AND
WHAZZIT?
"GREGORE"




HECK, NOW
EVERYONE KNOWS
THE MAGIC WORD!
MIKE SAYS THE PLAID
DUDE ALMOST GOT YOU!
I LOVE YOU HONEY BUT
DAMN, YOU CAN NOT
KEEP A SECRET
NOT LIKE ME..



LOTSA PEOPLE, THEY'RE
LIKE, "FORGET THE BLOOFER
LADY! HER BRAIN'S FRIED,
VAMPED WHILE SHE WAS
HIGH AND NEVER
CAME DOWN"


BUT I'M
HALF DEAD,
NOT HALF BAKED.
BEEN TRIPPIN' FOR
DECADES LEARNED TO
THINK PRETTY GOOD
THROUGH THE
PURPLE HAZE!



SO I
CAN SOLVE
A PROBLEM
WHEN I SEE
ONE...



LIKE YOU
BLACK AND
WHITE AND
BORING.



I GOT
DONE WITH THAT
AUTHORITARIAN
ESTABLISHMENT CRAP
WHEN I WAS HUMAN. YOU
THINK I'MA PUT UP
WITH IT
NOW?


NUH-UH
NO PULSE, NO
GOVERNMENT
BORN TO BE
WILD, DIED
THE SAME
WAY



YOU'RE
FREE TO
LEAVE ANY
TIME
BLOO.


CAN'T
SAY THE
SAME FOR
YOU

YOU'LL
NOTICE
I'M NOT
WORRIED.




OH..
YEAH. I BET
YOU GOT ALL SORTSA
MOTO UP YOUR SLEEVE
I DUNNO, MAYBE YOU CAN
SQUIRM AWAY! BUT IT AINT
JUST THE CHAINS ZIGGY
CAUSE I BEEN WATCHIN'
YOU CLOSE AND YOU
KNOW WHAT I
SEE?

I SEE BARK,
BUT NO BITE
I SEE THOSE SEXY
CLAWS ARE
LILY WHITE




YOU'VE
NEVER EVER
KILLED ANYONE,
HAVE
YOU?



YOU
WANT
TO?

MAKE
LIKE HOUDINI
AND EVERYONE I'VE
GOT ON MY SIDE WILL
THROW THEMSELVES AT
YOU, PUMPED FULL OF MY
CRAZIEST JUICE. THEY'LL
BE OUTTA SIGHT, MAN,
WON'T EVEN FEEL PAIN.
KILL OR BE KILLED,
GET IT?

REAL
MONSTERS PLAY
ROUGH, MOMMA.
YOU AIN'T CUT OUT
TO BE ON TOP OF A HILL
LIKE OURS, SO GET
COZY ON THE
BOTTOM.



AND BE
COOL!



I'LL
GETCHA
A TV AND
YOU'LL BE
SET FOR
LIFE.

"LIFE?"

OH DEAR.
IS THIS YOUR
LIFE NOW?
WELL...

LIKE
FATHER, LIKE
DAUGHTER.

I WONDER.
ARE YOUR CHAINS
HEAVIER THAN MY OWN?
I'VE HAD SO MANY YEARS
WITH THEM, THEY HARDLY
SEEM TO WEIGH A THING.
AND IS YOUR LITTLE CAGE
AS COMFORTABLE AS MINE?
IT'S BEEN SO LONG THAT
I SCARCELY DESPISE
THE WALLS ANY
LONGER.

HOW PATIENT
ARE YOU? I'M
CERTAIN THAT
YOU WILL GROW
QUITE CONTENT,
GIVEN TIME.

OR
WOULD YOU
RATHER TEAR
THEM ALL TO
PIECES?

YES, YOU
WILL SURELY
ESCAPE FROM THIS ROOM.
BUT OH, HOW YOU WANT TO
SLAUGHTER THEM FOR THIS.
YOUR HEART IS ALREADY SO
HEAVY, YOUR FRUSTRATION IS
MELTING INTO RAGE. MUST
YOU RESTRAIN YOURSELF?
CAN YOU LIVE IN THAT
SORT OF BOX?
FOREVER?

SCRUPLES
ARE HEAVY FETTERS
TO BEAR, AND YET SO
FRAGILE. WILL YOU BOTHER
ENDURING THIS TEST AGAIN
AND AGAIN, AD INFINITUM?
OR SHALL YOU BE FREED,
AND DONE WITH THIS
INSUFFERABLE
NONSENSE?

I
KNOW YOU'RE
CONSIDERING IT,
OR YOU COULDN'T
HEAR MY
VOICE.

WHAT
BETTER TIME
TO SHED A FEW
VESTIGIAL
MORALS?

VAMPIRES
ARE ALREADY
RATHER DEAD.
WHO WOULD BLAME
YOU FOR KILLING
ONE OR TWO?

WHY, YOU'D
BE DOING
THEM A
FAVOR.

BUT DON'T
ANSWER YET.
THINK IT OVER.
I CAN WAIT AS
LONG AS IT
TAKES.

A GOOD
FATHER NEVER
GIVES UP ON
HIS CHILD.

FREAKS!
RABBITS!
BOGEYMEN!
BEND ME YOUR EARS!
TURN ON, TUNE
IN, DROP
DEAD!

I HEREBY
INVITE YOU TO
AN AGE OF PEACE,
BLOOD, AND ROCK
AND ROLL!

EMPHASIS
ON, GUESS
WHAT??

PEACE?



LET'S
GET IT STRAIGHT!
WE VAMPIRES NEEDED
ZANDRA FOR ONE THING!
HER PLASMA GAVE US FREEDOM
FROM THE WAKING WORLD, AND
WE SACRIFICED OUR OTHER
FREEDOMS 'CAUSE IT FELT
LIKE A FAIR
TRADE!

LIKE HELL
IT WAS! WHEN DO
VAMPIRES EVER ASK
PERMISSION TO TAKE
SOMEONE'S BLOOD?
THAT AIN'T NATURE,
MAN!



HEY,
WHAT DID
YOU DO?

EXACTLY
WHAT YOU'RE
AFRAID OF.



THE
RUMORS ARE
TRUE, WE STAGED
A COUP. ZANDRA'S
OFF HER LITTLE
THRONE!

SHE'S
SAFE! SHE'S
ALIVE! BUT
SHE'S NOT IN
CHARGE!



WHICH
SCARES SOME
OF YOU, DOESN'T
IT? BECAUSE FEAR
CONVINCED YOU SHE WAS
ABOVE US! MADE
US PLAY BY HER
RULES!



AND SHE
ENCOURAGED
THE FEAR, THE IDEA
THAT WE NEEDED HER
'PROTECTION,' ALL OF
US, VAMPIRES OR
OTHERWISE.

MAYBE YOU
DISAGREE...?

WELL HERE'S
MY PROPOSAL.
IF YOU'RE TEMPTED
TO GO RESCUE HER,
ASK YOURSELF... DO
YOU NEED A SAVIOR
WHO NEEDS YOU TO
SAVE HER?